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30410

SUPERMAN'S ACTION COMICS



THERE ARE
SEVEN SUPERMEN
ON THIS STAGE...

...BUT AFTER
DOCTOR LIGHT
FIRES HIS WEAPON,
THEY'LL ONLY BE
ONE LEFT!

WE CHALLENGE YOU
TO GUESS **WHICH**
IT WILL BE!



YOU COULD BE IN THE
SUPERMAN MOVIE
---DETAILS INSIDE---



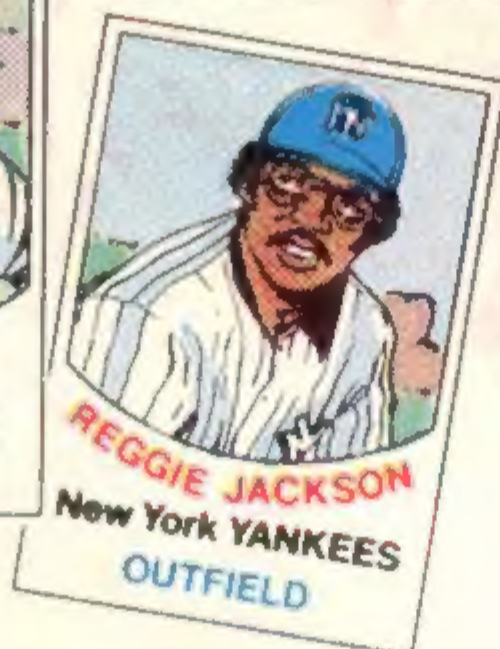
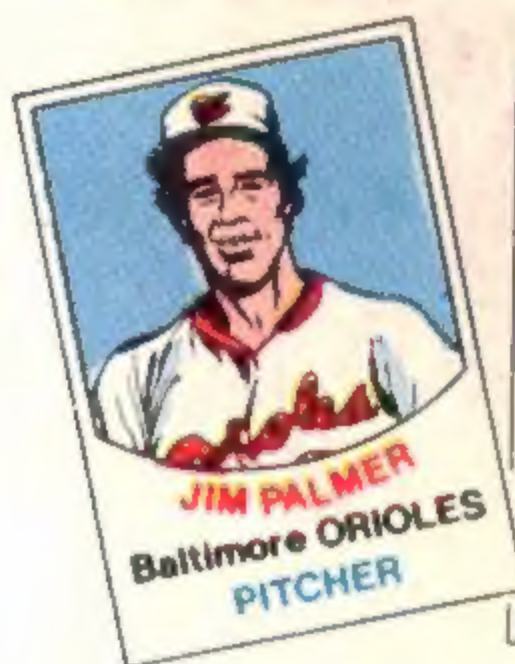
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EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON,
KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--
WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY
GAVE HIM FANTASTIC **SUPER-POWERS!**
IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE
POSES AS MILD-MANNERED TV
NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--
AND BATTLES EVIL
ALL OVER EARTH
AND BEYOND
AS...

SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER



...AND NOW, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN, THE STAR
OF OUR SHOW--

--OR SHOULD
I SAY SUPER-
STAR--

--HEEEERRRE'S
JOHNNY!



THE MIDNIGHT SHOW, STARRING JOHNNY NEVADA-- A NIGHTLY RITUAL
FOR MILLIONS OF TV VIEWERS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY! BUT AS YOU
CAN SEE, THE **THEME** OF TONIGHT'S SHOW IS QUITE **SENSATIONAL--**
AND QUITE **TEMPTATIONAL** FOR A CERTAIN **MASTER VILLAIN** WHO
DEVICES A DIABOLIC MEANS OF GUARANTEEING HIMSELF AN **ANSWER**
TO THE QUESTION--

"WILL THE REAL SUPERMAN PLEASE SHOW UP?"

STORY: CARY BATES
ART: KURT SCHAFFENBERGER
& TEX BLAISDELL
COLOR: JERRY SERPE
LETTERING: MORRIS WALDINGER

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1,024 MILES EAST OF
METROPOLIS BAY-- IN
THE MIDST OF THE CHOPPY
WATERS OF THE **NORTH
ATLANTIC**...

...WATERS THAT BETRAY NO HINT
OF THE **TITANIC BATTLE** RAGING
BENEATH THE SURFACE!...

THE **COMBATANTS**--
THE **MIGHTIEST**
MAN ON EARTH...

...AND SOMETHING DEFINITELY
NOT OF THIS EARTH...

I'VE KNOWN ABOUT
THIS **ALIEN CREATURE**
INHABITING THE **ATLANTIC**
FOR SOME TIME--

--BUT SO FAR, HE'D STAYED
AT THE BOTTOM--KEPT TO
HIMSELF--DIDN'T EVEN
GIVE **AQUAMAN** ANY
TROUBLE!

HOWEVER, WHEN
HE TAKES IT INTO
HIS HEAD TO
EXPLORE THE
SURFACE--

--IT'S TIME TO
DISCOURAGE
HIM-- BEFORE
HE DOES SOME
REAL **DAMAGE!**

--AND MY **TELESCOPIC
VISION** INDICATES I JUST
SUCCEEDED IN GETTING
THE POINT **ACROSS!**
HE'S HEADING BACK
TO THE **DEEP SIX!**

WHICH
JUST
LEAVES
ME
ENOUGH
TIME...



...TO **SUPER-STREAK** BACK TO **METROPOLIS** IN TIME FOR **CLARK KENT** TO MAKE AN **IMPORTANT APPEARANCE!**

AND LESS THAN A **SECOND-TICK** LATER, A **BLURRED** FIGURE OF **RED** AND **BLUE** INVISIBLY ZOOMS INTO A WINDOW ON THE **20TH FLOOR** OF THE VAST **GALAXY BUILDING...**



INSTEAD OF MY USUAL **STOREROOM**, I'LL BE BETTER OFF USING THE **MEN'S ROOM** NEAR **JOHNNY NEVADA'S** STUDIO TO CHANGE CLOTHES!



NO SIGN OF HIM IN THE **GREEN ROOM**, NICK!

I'LL CHECK IN **HERE--!**

MEN



AH, THERE YOU ARE, **CLARK KENT!**

YOU GO ON IN **TWO MINUTES...** **STUDIO B... SUPERMAN!**



YOU'LL BE **ON STAGE** WHEN THE SHOW OPENS! **JOHNNY'S** EVEN CUT HIS MONOLOGUE!

THANKS, **LOU!** I'M ON MY WAY!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOU PROTEST? SOMEONE WALKS IN ON SUPERMAN SWITCHING TO CLARK KENT-- AND THIS IS THE REACTION? NO SHOCK, NO ALARM, NO AMAZEMENT!?



HOW COULD THIS BE--?



MOVING RIGHT ALONG, WE FIND OURSELVES IN **STUDIO B**, AS THE **TAPING OF JOHNNY NEVADA'S MIDNIGHT SHOW** GETS UNDERWAY...

HEEEERRRE'S JOHNNY!



OOOFFF
EASY WITH THE WIRES, FELLA--

WELCOME TO OUR SHOW, AMERICA! HOW ABOUT THAT ENTRANCE, HUH?

NOTHING LIKE LANDING BY THE SEAT OF YOUR PANTS! HA HA!

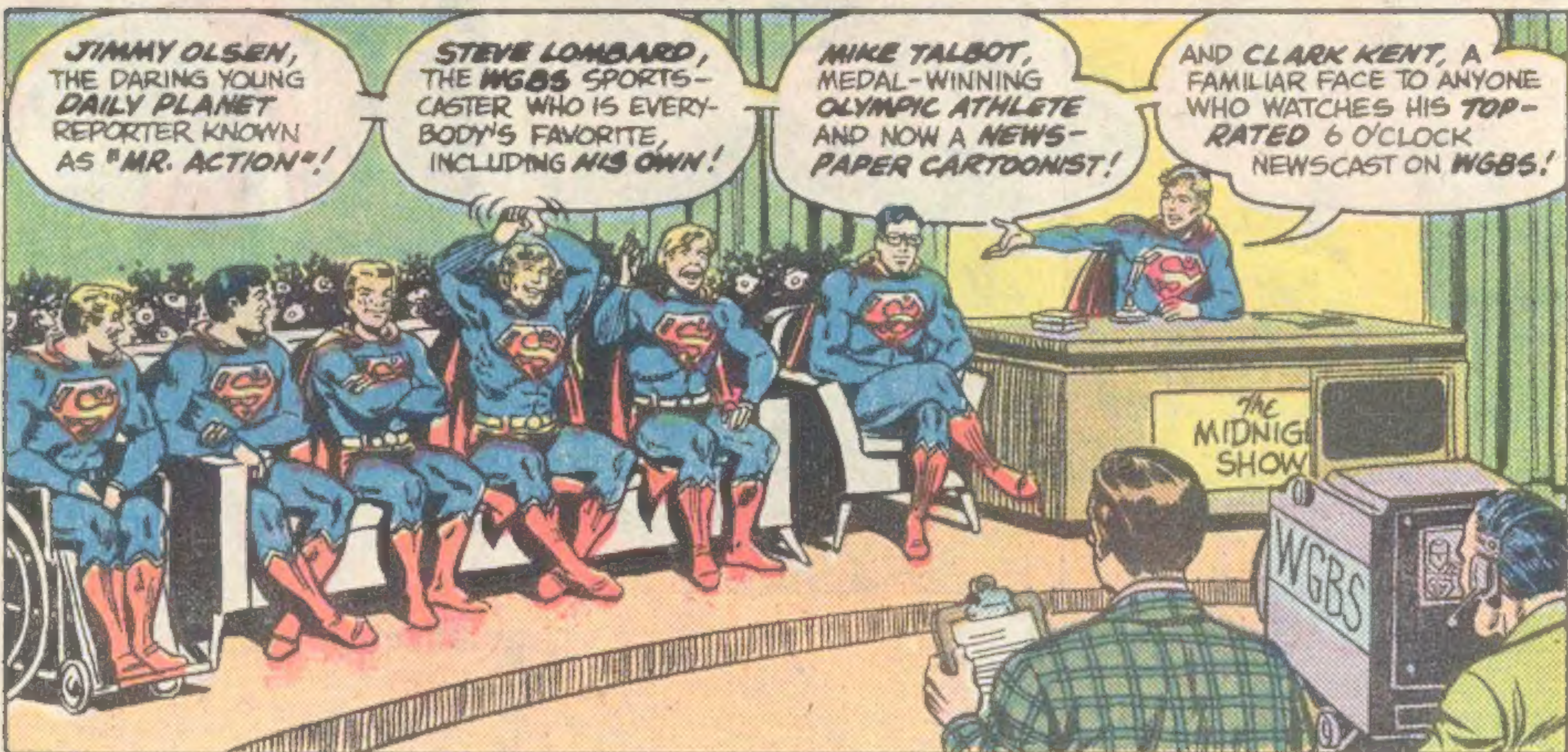


NOW LET ME INTRODUCE TONIGHT'S GUESTS--

ROCK STIRLING, THE FAMOUS SCIENCE-FICTION WRITER!*

GREGORY REED, THE ACTOR WHO PORTRAYS SUPERMAN ON THE SILVER SCREEN!

* STIRLING WAS LAST SEEN IN *SUPERMAN* #145, MAY, 1961--E.N.B., KEEPER OF THE RECORDS.



JIMMY OLSEN, THE DARING YOUNG DAILY PLANET REPORTER KNOWN AS "MR. ACTION"!

STEVE LOMBARD, THE WGBS SPORTS-CASTER WHO IS EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE, INCLUDING HIS OWN!

MIKE TALBOT, MEDAL-WINNING OLYMPIC ATHLETE AND NOW A NEWSPAPER CARTOONIST!

AND CLARK KENT, A FAMILIAR FACE TO ANYONE WHO WATCHES HIS TOP-RATED 6 O'CLOCK NEWSCAST ON WGBS!



IF YOU'RE RUSHING TO ADJUST YOUR TV SETS BECAUSE YOU SEE US ALL WEARING SUPERMAN UNIFORMS--STOP!

THE BIG RED S'S ARE FOR REAL!

THE REASON WE'RE DRESSED AS THE MAN OF STEEL IS THE THEME OF TONIGHT'S SHOW!



ALL SEVEN OF US--AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER--HAVE BEEN SUSPECTED BY OTHER PEOPLE OF LEADING A DOUBLE LIFE AS--

--YOU GUESSED IT, FOLKS--

--SUPERMAN!

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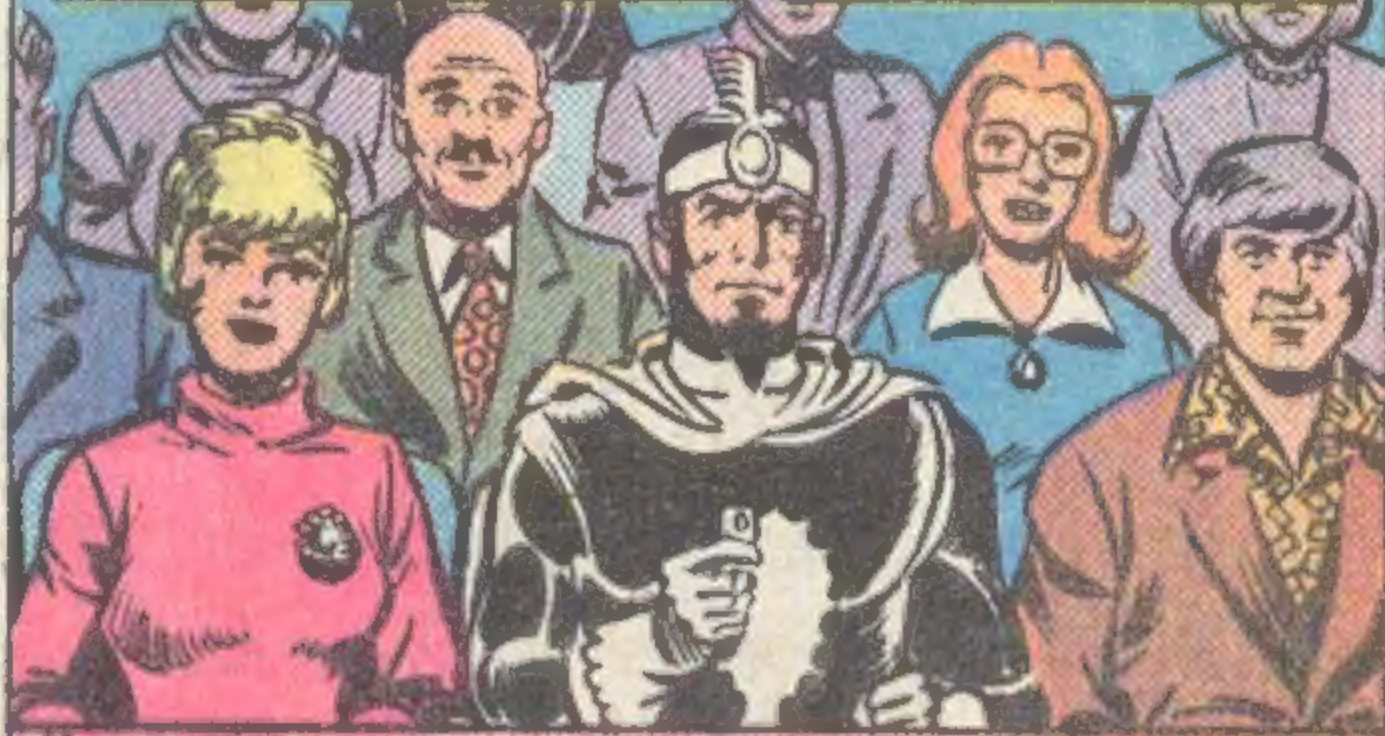
RIGHT AFTER A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR, WE'LL HEAR **JIMMY OLSEN** TELL OF THE TIMES HE WAS BELIEVED TO BE **SUPERMAN**!



MEANWHILE, LET US **Zoom in** ON THE **STUDIO AUDIENCE** WATCHING THE PROCEEDINGS. AT FIRST GLANCE IT **APPEARS** TO BE AN AVERAGE SAMPLING OF **METROPOLIS** CITIZENS...

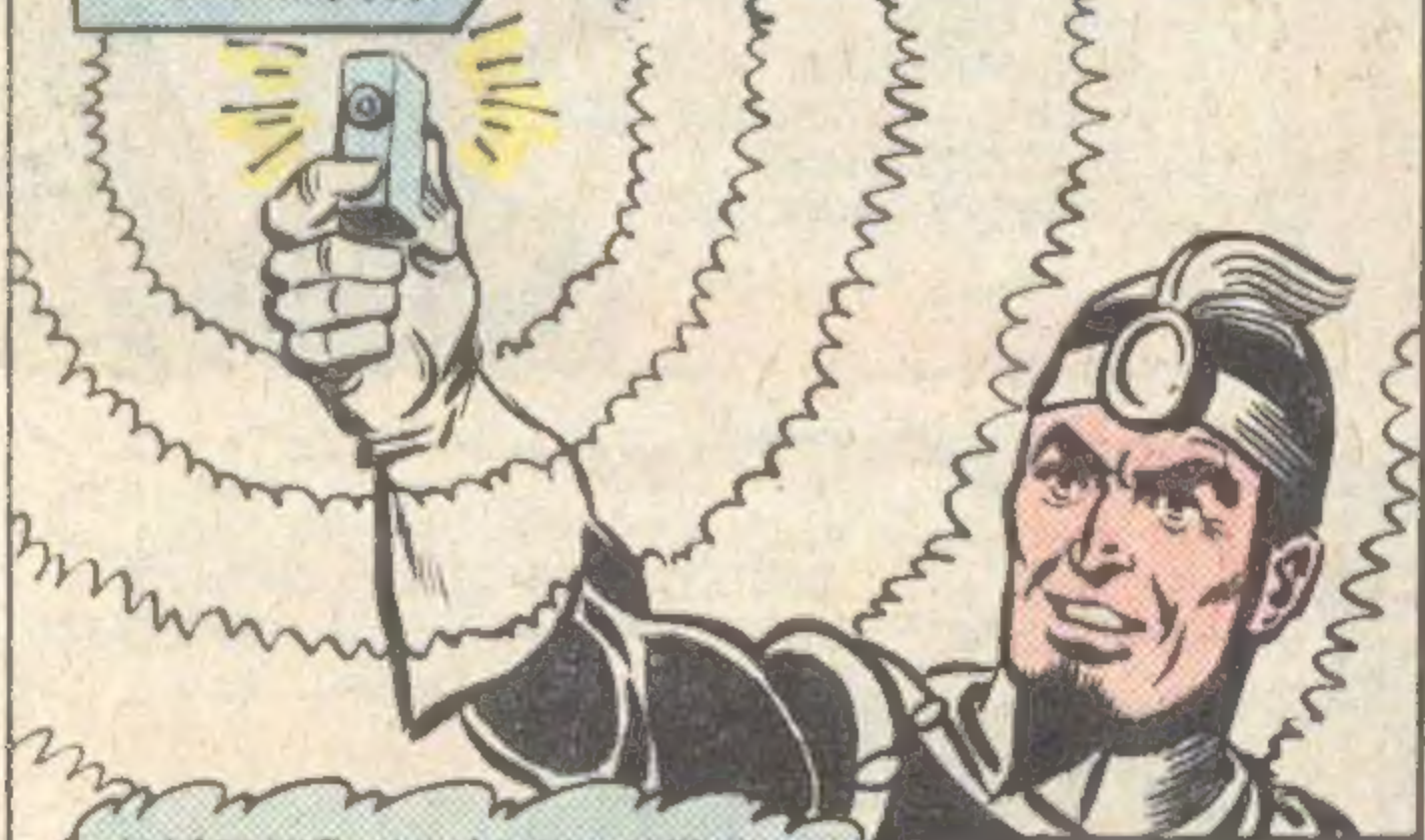
NOW UPON A **SECOND, CLOSER LOOK**--TAKING CARE TO AVOID HAVING YOUR VISION **WARPED** BY THE **ILLUSION** OF A **LIGHT-RAY COCOON**...

YOU MIGHT RECOGNIZE THE NONDESCRIPT MAN WITH THE GOATEE AS THE DIABOLICAL **DR. LIGHT** *...



* **DR. LIGHT**--THE INFAMOUS VILLAIN WHO HAS REPEATEDLY TRIED TO **ELIMINATE** EVERY MEMBER OF THE **JUSTICE LEAGUE**--BOTH **SEPARATELY** AND **TOGETHER**!-- **JULIE**

...A VILLAIN WHO HAS INFILTRATED THIS **TV TAPING** WITH **ONE THOUGHT** DOMINATING HIS MIND...



ANOTHER MOMENT, AND I SHALL FIND OUT IF THE **REAL SUPERMAN** HAS MADE THE **FATAL MISTAKE** THAT WILL TRIGGER HIS **DOOM**!

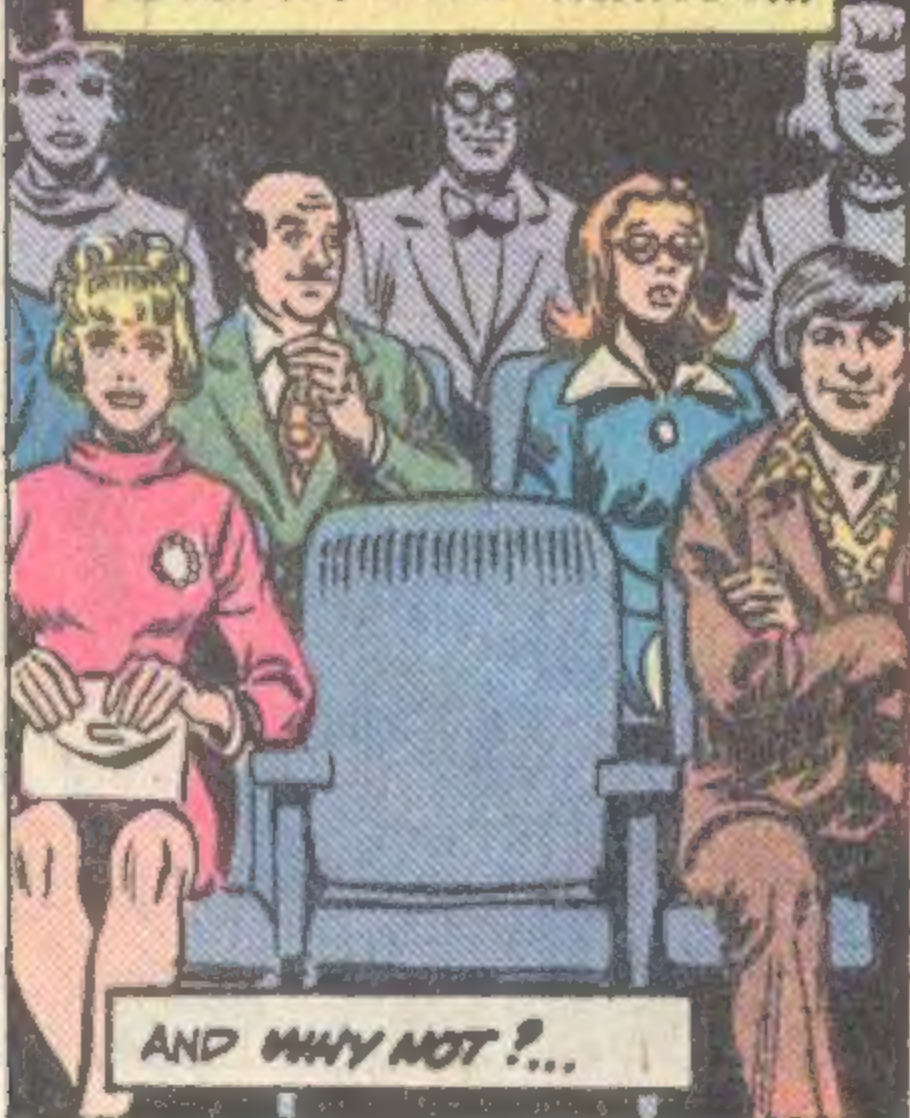
AND FOLLOWING THE **COMMERCIAL**...

IT HAPPENED **TWICE, JOHNNY**...ONCE IN A **BACKWOODS** COMMUNITY, AND ONCE IN **HOLLYWOOD**! * YOU SEE...



* AS TOLD IN "THE BOY SUPERMAN": **JIMMY OLSEN** #14, AUG, 1956; AND "THE LADY-KILLER FROM METROPOLIS": **JD** #33, DEC., 1958.-- **E.N.S.**, OFFICIAL HISTORIAN.

BUT AS **JIMMY'S** STORY PROCEEDS, **ONE SEAT** IN THE **STUDIO AUDIENCE** HAS ABRUPTLY BEEN **VACATED**!...



AND **WHY NOT**?...

...SINCE ITS OCCUPANT HAS ALREADY **SEEN** EXACTLY WHAT HE CAME TO **SEE**!

HOW RIDICULOUSLY **EASY** IT WAS FOR ME TO FIND OUT THE **WORLD'S GREATEST SECRET**!

WHEN I READ THE ADVANCE PUBLICITY FOR THIS SHOW, I HAD A STRONG **HUNCH** THAT THE **REAL SUPERMAN'S** **ALTER EGO** WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO **RESIST** SHOWING UP IN THE **AUDIENCE**--



--BUT I NEVER **IMAGINED** HE'D ACTUALLY TURN OUT TO BE ONE OF **NEVADA'S** **CAPED GUESTS**!



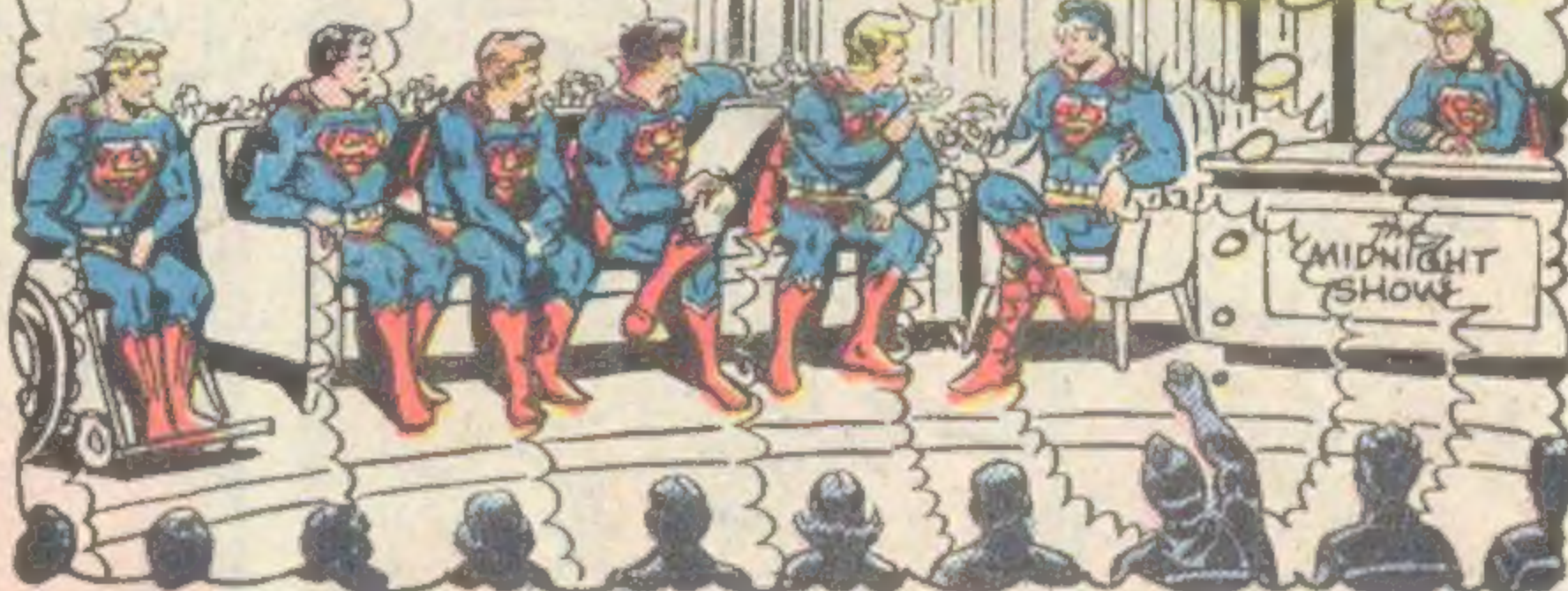
WHAT'S **THIS**--WHERE OTHERS HAVE FAILED TIME AND AGAIN, **DR. LIGHT** HAS PENETRATED THE **ACTION AGE'S** **DOUBLE IDENTITY** AS QUICK AS--**LIGHT**? DOES HE REALLY KNOW THAT **CLARK KENT** AND **SUPERMAN** ARE **ONE** AND THE **SAME**?

TO ANSWER THAT, WE MUST REVEAL THAT YOU, TOO--ALONG WITH EVERY-ONE ELSE IN **STUDIO 8**--UNKNOWINGLY FELL VICTIM TO THE **HYPNOTIC EFFECT** OF **DR. LIGHT'S** LATEST BRAINSTORM...



...A **PHOTON-DISPLACER BEAM** DESIGNED FOR A **SPECTACULAR** DISPLAY OF ITS CREATOR'S SCIENTIFIC WIZARDRY...

THE RAYS THAT ARE STREAMING THROUGH EVERY **SQUARE INCH** OF THIS STUDIO WILL REACH EVERY **PERSON** HERE...



...MOMENTARILY TURNING THEM **INVISIBLE** TO MY SPECIAL **EYEGLASS LENSES**!

HOWEVER, THE **SUPER-ATOMS** OF A **KRYPTONIAN** LIKE **SUPER-MAN** WILL **REFLECT** THE **PHOTON-BEAM**--

--KEEPING HIM-- AND HIM ALONE-- **VISIBLE** TO MY **EYES**!



BUT WHEN THE **LORD OF LIGHT** COULD FIND **NO MAN** SPOTLIGHTED IN THE AUDIENCE--HE DISAPPOINTEDLY TURNED TOWARD THE SHOW ON STAGE...

GREAT PHOTONS! I'VE OVERLOOKED THE **OBVIOUS**!

SUPERMAN HAS BEEN IN **PLAIN SIGHT** ALL ALONG--SURROUNDED BY **COSTUMED IMPERSONATORS**!



MY **PHOTON-BEAM** CLEARLY SHOWS THE **ONE**--THE **ONLY**--THE **REAL SUPERMAN** IS **MIKE TALBOT**--THE **OLYMPIC CHAMPION**!

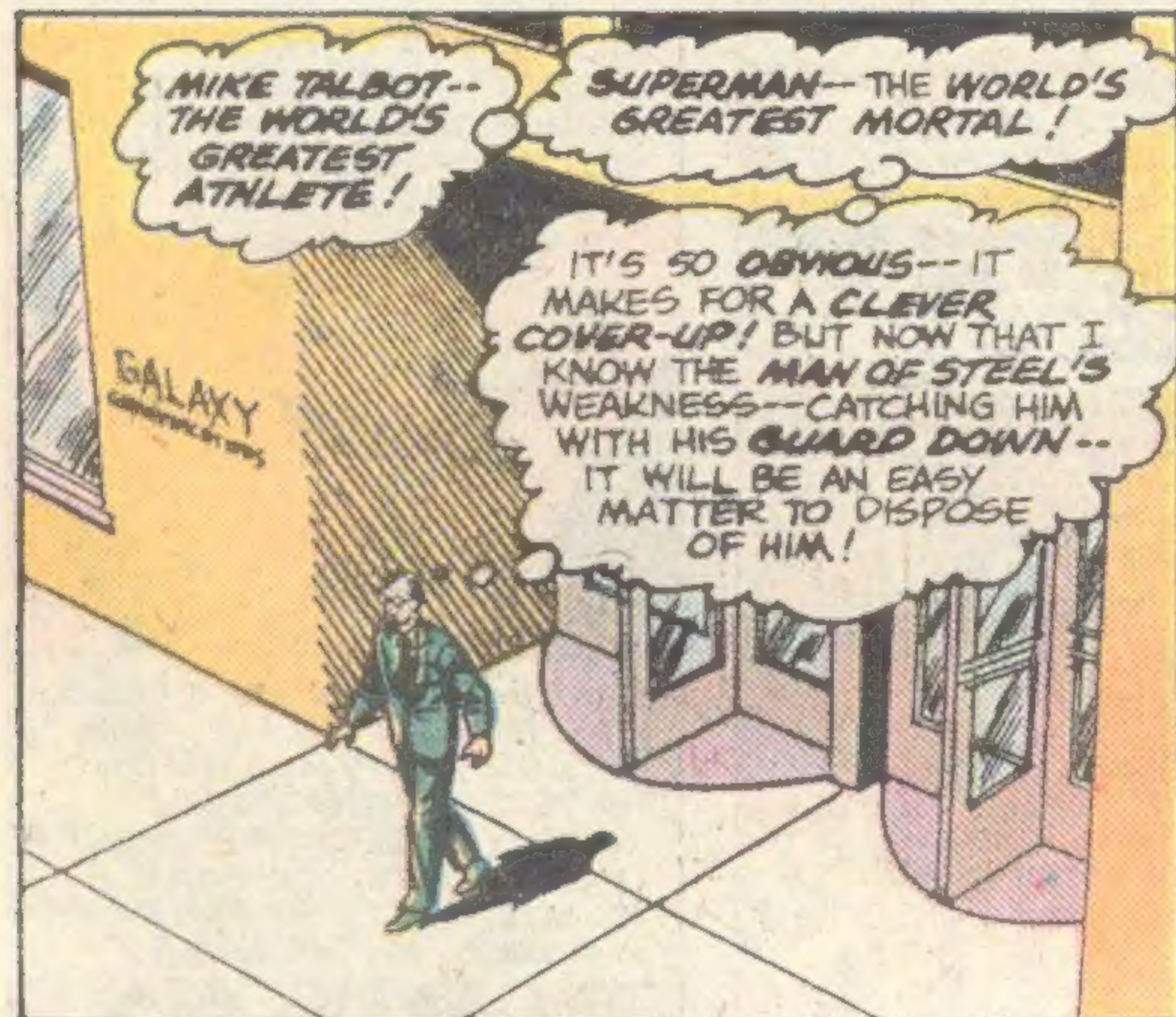
AND SINCE **HE** ISN'T WEARING MY SPECIAL **LENSES**, HE CAN'T POSSIBLY **KNOW** THAT HIS **SECRET IDENTITY** HAS BEEN **EXPOSED**!



MIKE TALBOT--THE **WORLD'S GREATEST ATHLETE**!

SUPERMAN--THE **WORLD'S GREATEST MORTAL**!

IT'S SO **OBVIOUS**--IT MAKES FOR A **CLEVER COVER-UP**! BUT NOW THAT I KNOW THE **MAN OF STEEL'S** WEAKNESS--CATCHING HIM WITH HIS **GUARD DOWN**--IT WILL BE AN EASY MATTER TO **DISPOSE** OF HIM!



AND ONCE I HAVE ELIMINATED THE **MIGHTIEST** OF THE **JUSTICE LEAGUERS**, THE OTHERS WILL EASILY FALL IN **LINE**!



LATER, AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF
THE *MIDNIGHT SHOW* TAPING...

G'NIGHT, MR. TALBOT!
YOU'D MAKE A GREAT
SUPERMAN!

THANKS--BUT I'D
NEVER BE ABLE TO
FILL HIS BOOTS!

AND AS THE ATHLETE-CARTOONIST
WHOM **DR. LIGHT** HAS PEGGED AS
THE **REAL SUPERMAN** BOARDS A
WAITING TAXI...

HOLD IT AGAIN, YOU SAY!
WE KNOW VERY WELL THAT
A CERTAIN **WSSS** NEWSCASTER
IS THE **TRUE SUPERMAN!**
SO HOW COULD **DR. LIGHT'S**
FOOLPROOF **PHOTON-BEAM**
HAVE SINGLED OUT **MIKE**
TALBOT INSTEAD OF **CLARK**
KENT?

KEEP YOUR PATIENCE ON
HOLD, READER--

--WHILE YOU WATCH THE *PLOT THICKEN*,...

THE **HOTEL**
SEVILLE,
DRIVER!

YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY,
MR. TALBOT!

--ON YOUR WAY OUT, **SUPERMAN**--
--OUT OF THIS *LIFE*!

AFTER A DRIVE
ACROSS TOWN...

CABBY--THE **SEVILLE**
ISN'T ANYWHERE *NEAR*
THIS JUNKYARD! WHAT'S
THE BIG IDEA, ANYWAY?

THE IDEA IS
VERY *SIMPLE*--

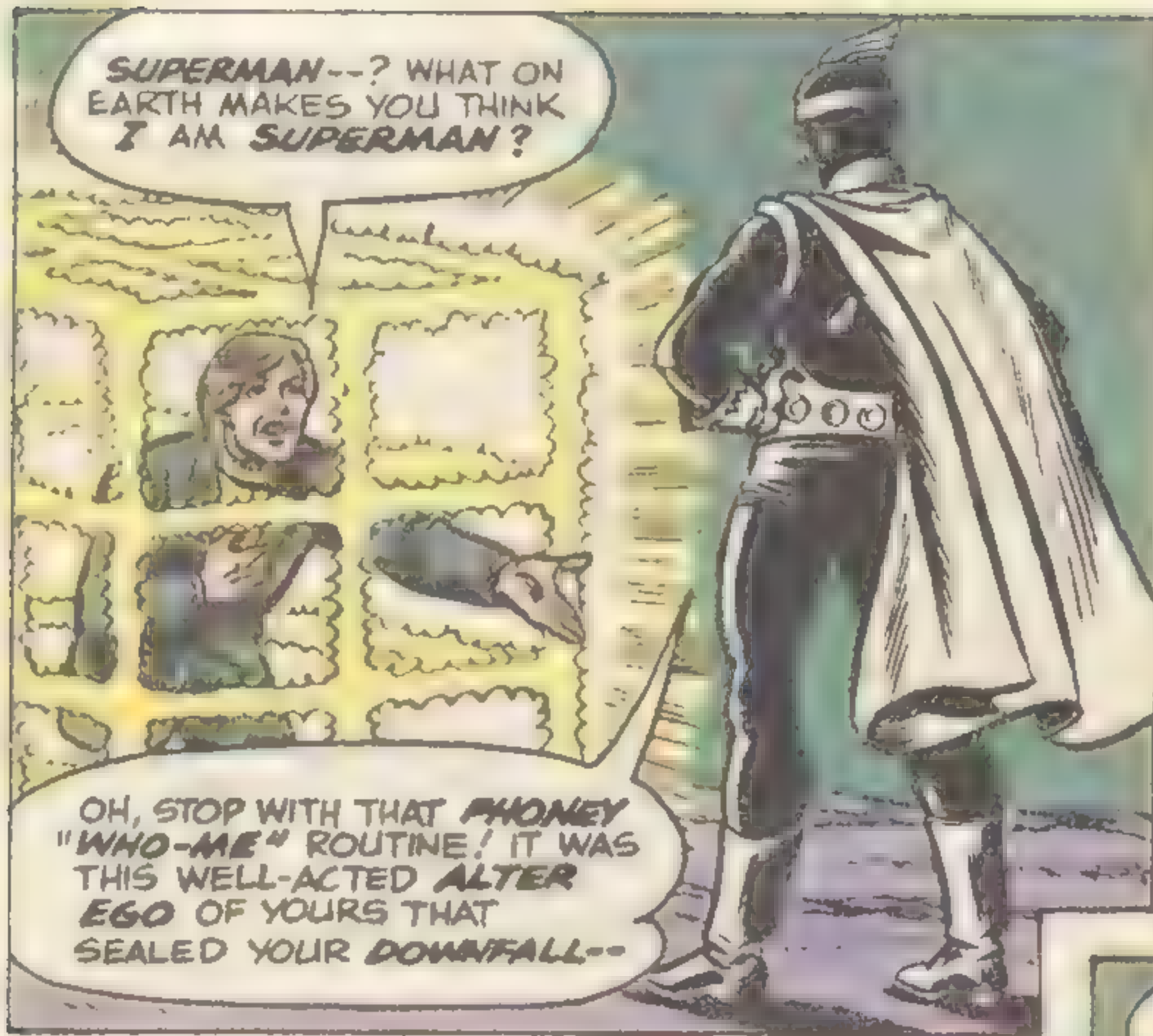
--THE *TAXI* YOU
BELIEVE YOU ARE
IN IS *NOT* A TAXI
AT ALL--

--BUT AN *ILLUSION*
FORMED BY
REARRANGED
PHOTONS--

--THAT HAVE MOLECULARLY
BOUND TOGETHER TO FORM
AN INESCAPABLE **SOLID-**
LIGHT-CELL!

YOU ARE NOW
MY **PRISONER**,
MIKE TALBOT--

--ALIAS
SUPERMAN!



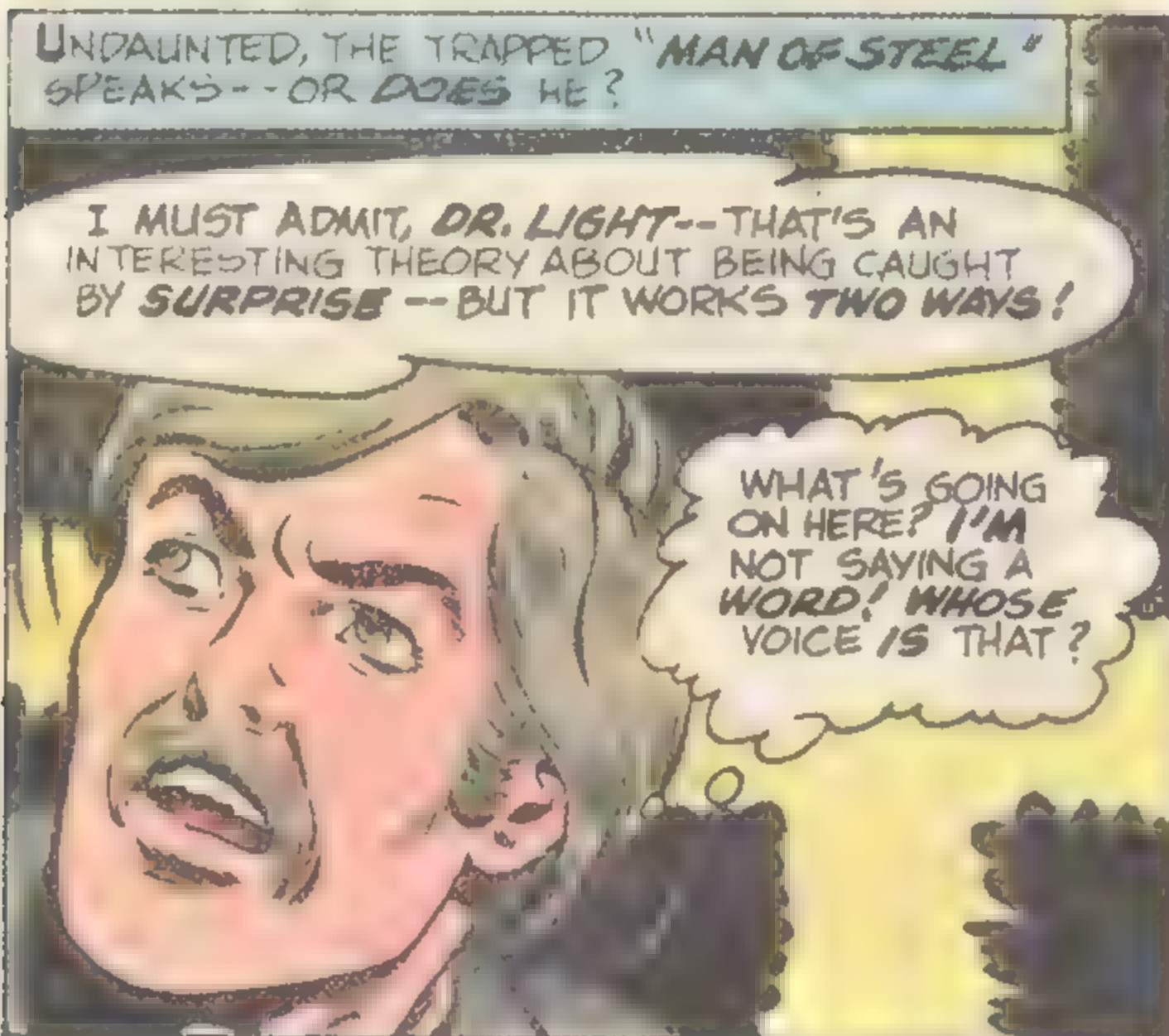
SUPERMAN--? WHAT ON EARTH MAKES YOU THINK I AM **SUPERMAN**?

OH, STOP WITH THAT **PHONEY** "WHO-ME" ROUTINE! IT WAS THIS WELL-ACTED **ALTER EGO** OF YOURS THAT SEALED YOUR **DOWNFALL**--



--FOR I CALCULATED THE **ODDS** OF CATCHING YOU **OFF-GUARD** WOULD BE GREATLY **MULTIPLIED** IF I COULD **STRIKE** AT YOU IN YOUR **SECRET IDENTITY**--

--WHEN YOU'D **LEAST** EXPECT ANY KIND OF **ENEMY ACTION**!



UNDAUNTED, THE TRAPPED "**MAN OF STEEL**" SPEAKS--OR DOES HE?

I MUST ADMIT, **DR. LIGHT**--THAT'S AN INTERESTING THEORY ABOUT BEING CAUGHT BY **SURPRISE**--BUT IT WORKS **TWO WAYS**!

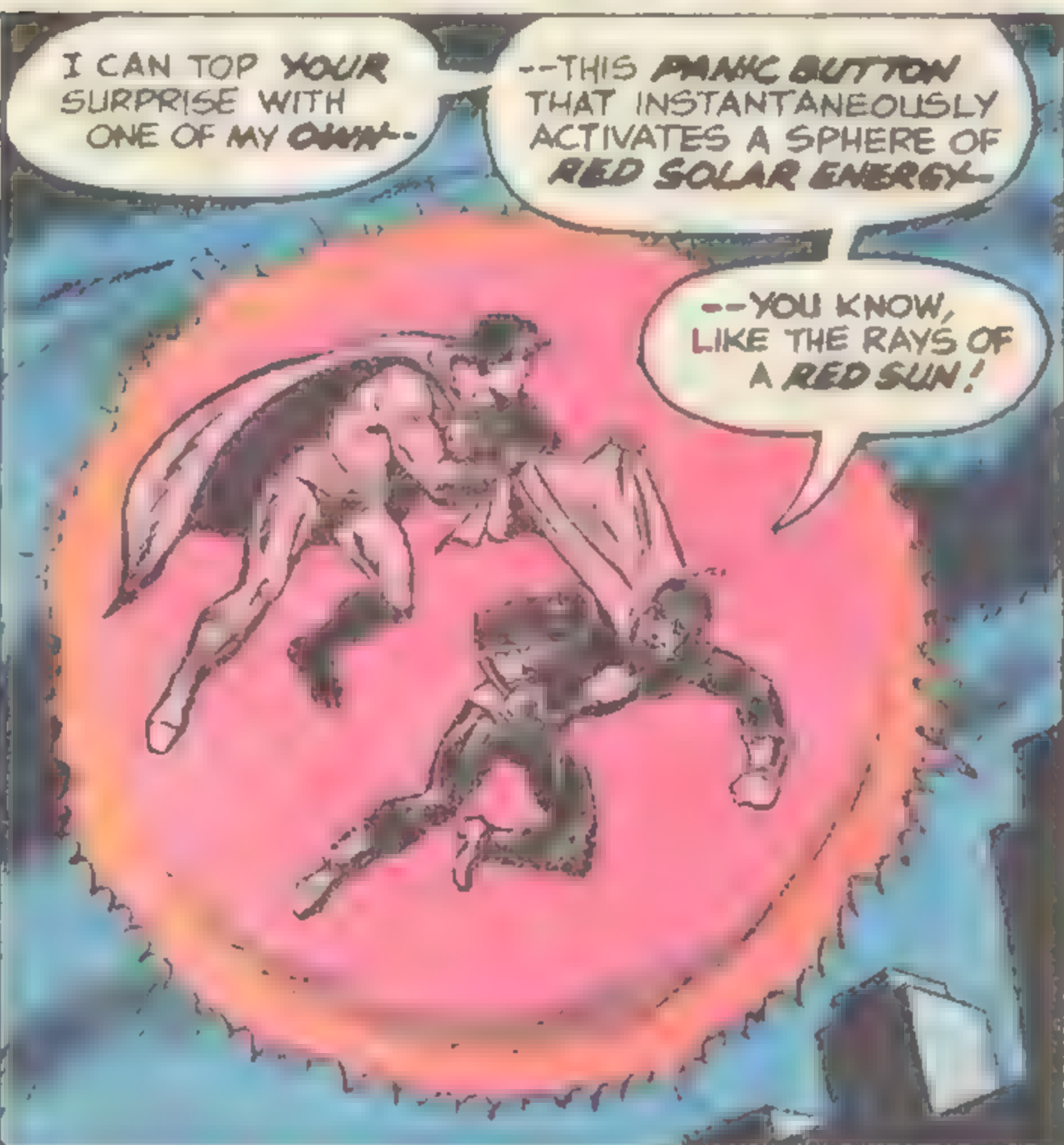
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I'M NOT SAYING A **WORD**! **WHOSE VOICE IS THAT**?



S-SUPERMAN??

BUT MY **LIGHT-BARS** WERE **ESCAPE-PROOF**--EVEN TO YOU!

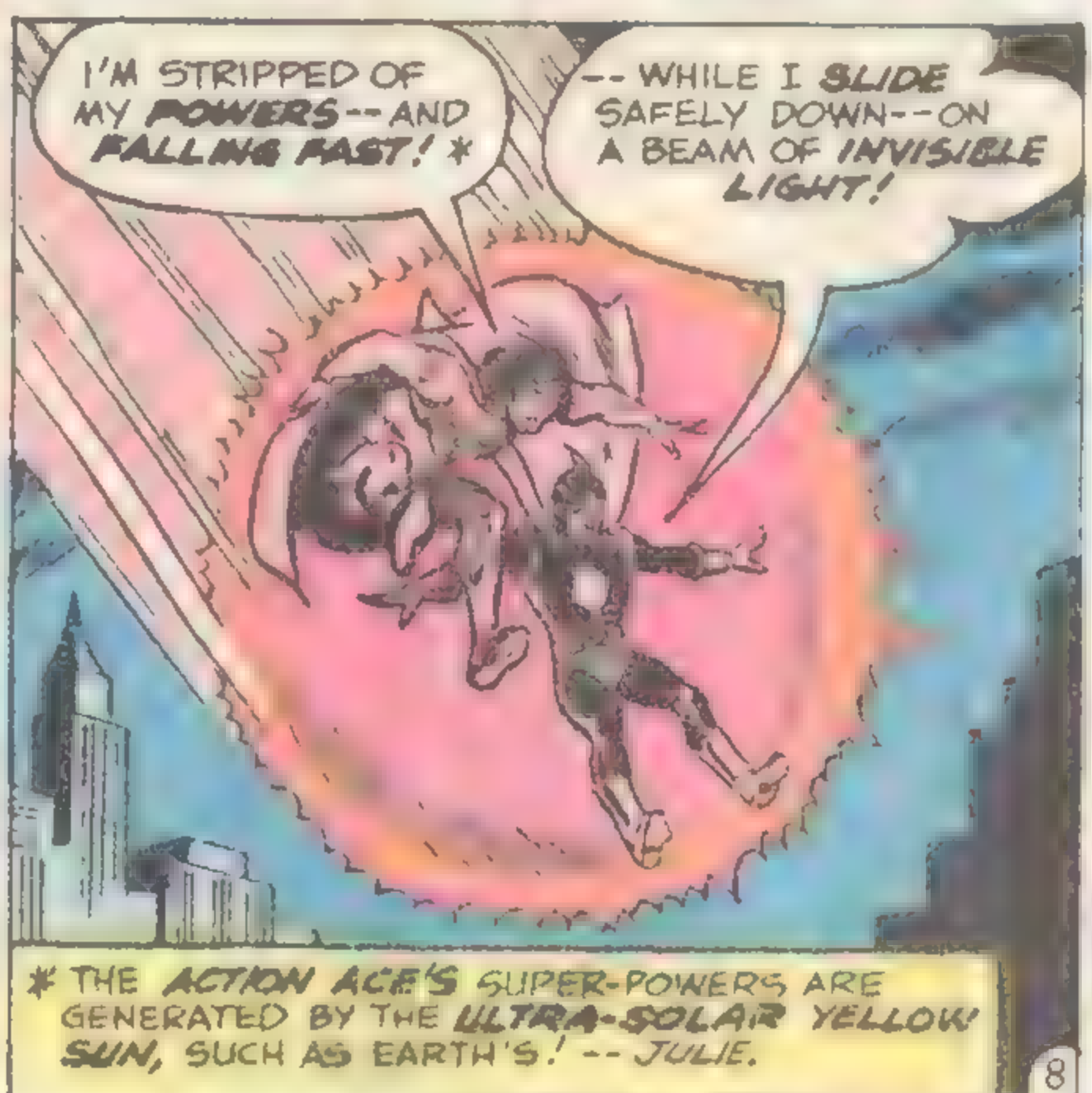
SEE WHAT I MEAN ABOUT **SURPRISE**?



I CAN TOP YOUR SURPRISE WITH ONE OF MY **OWN**--

--THIS **PANIC BUTTON** THAT INSTANTANEOUSLY ACTIVATES A SPHERE OF **RED SOLAR ENERGY**--

--YOU KNOW, LIKE THE RAYS OF A **RED SUN**!



I'M STRIPPED OF MY **POWERS**--AND **FALLING FAST**! *

--WHILE I **SLIDE** SAFELY DOWN--ON A BEAM OF **INVISIBLE LIGHT**!

* THE **ACTION ACE'S** SUPER-POWERS ARE GENERATED BY THE **ULTRA-SOLAR YELLOW SUN**, SUCH AS EARTH'S! -- JULIE.

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

"I know why Ken likes to shoot Daisy B-B guns with me. He's a better shot than I am! And I like shooting with him simply because it gives us an opportunity to spend some time together.

Sometimes we set up targets down in the basement. Or else we'll get out in the backyard by ourselves plinking away, and talking. I've found it's a terrific way for a father and son to get to know each other better.

At the same time, I think it's helping Ken develop a sense of responsibility, as well as confidence in himself through his own achievements. And that's important at any age."

John Unitas

Former Baltimore Colts
Quarterback Johnny Unitas
and son Ken.

John Unitas

The sport a boy grows up with

shooting a Daisy

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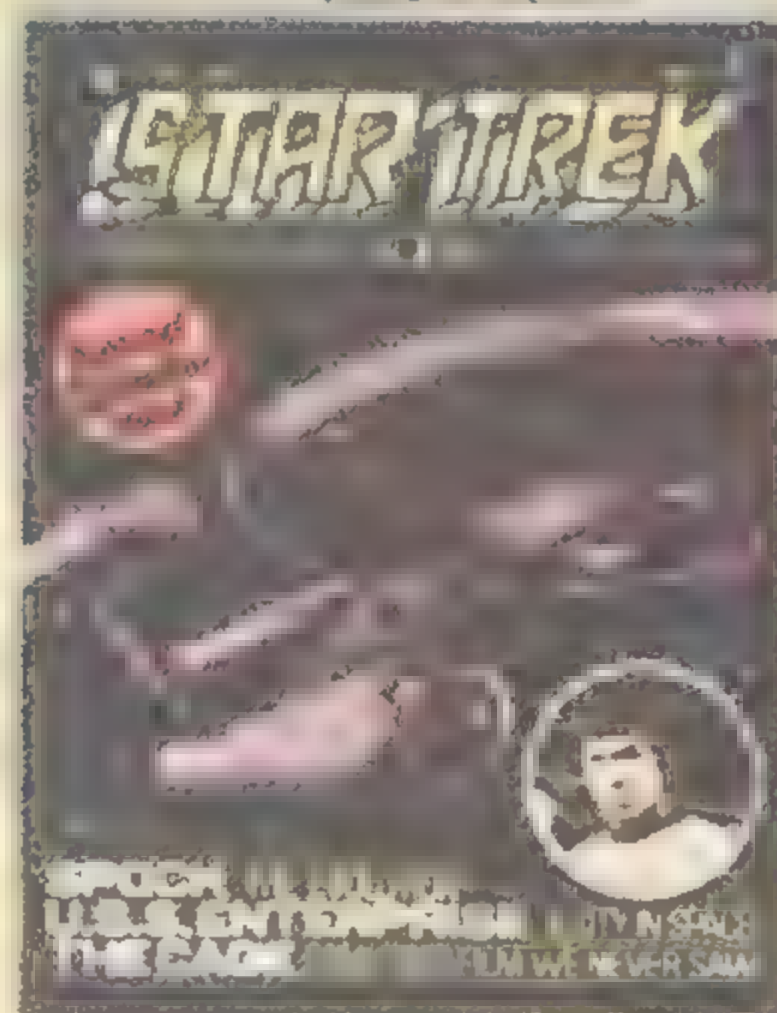
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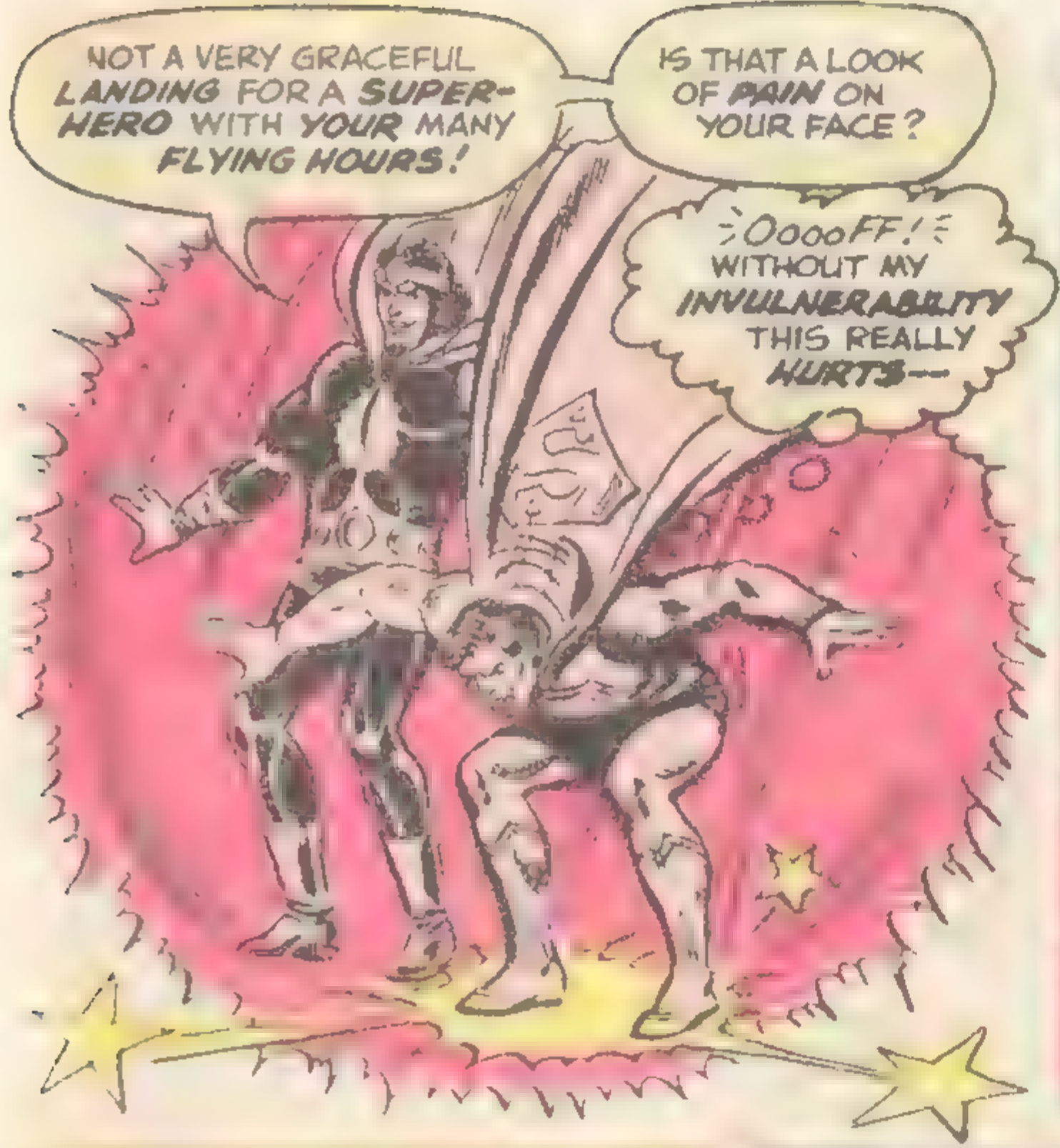
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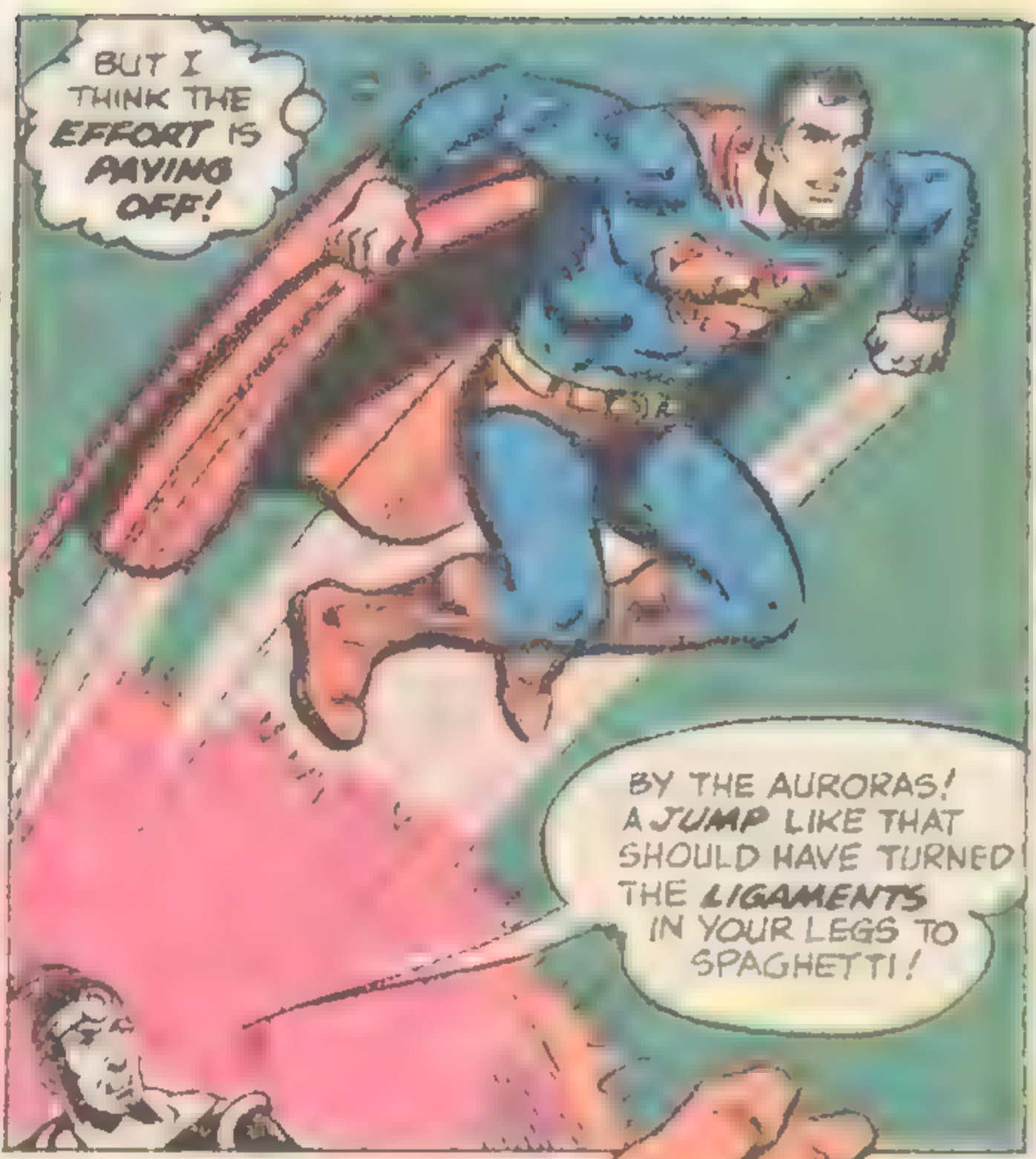
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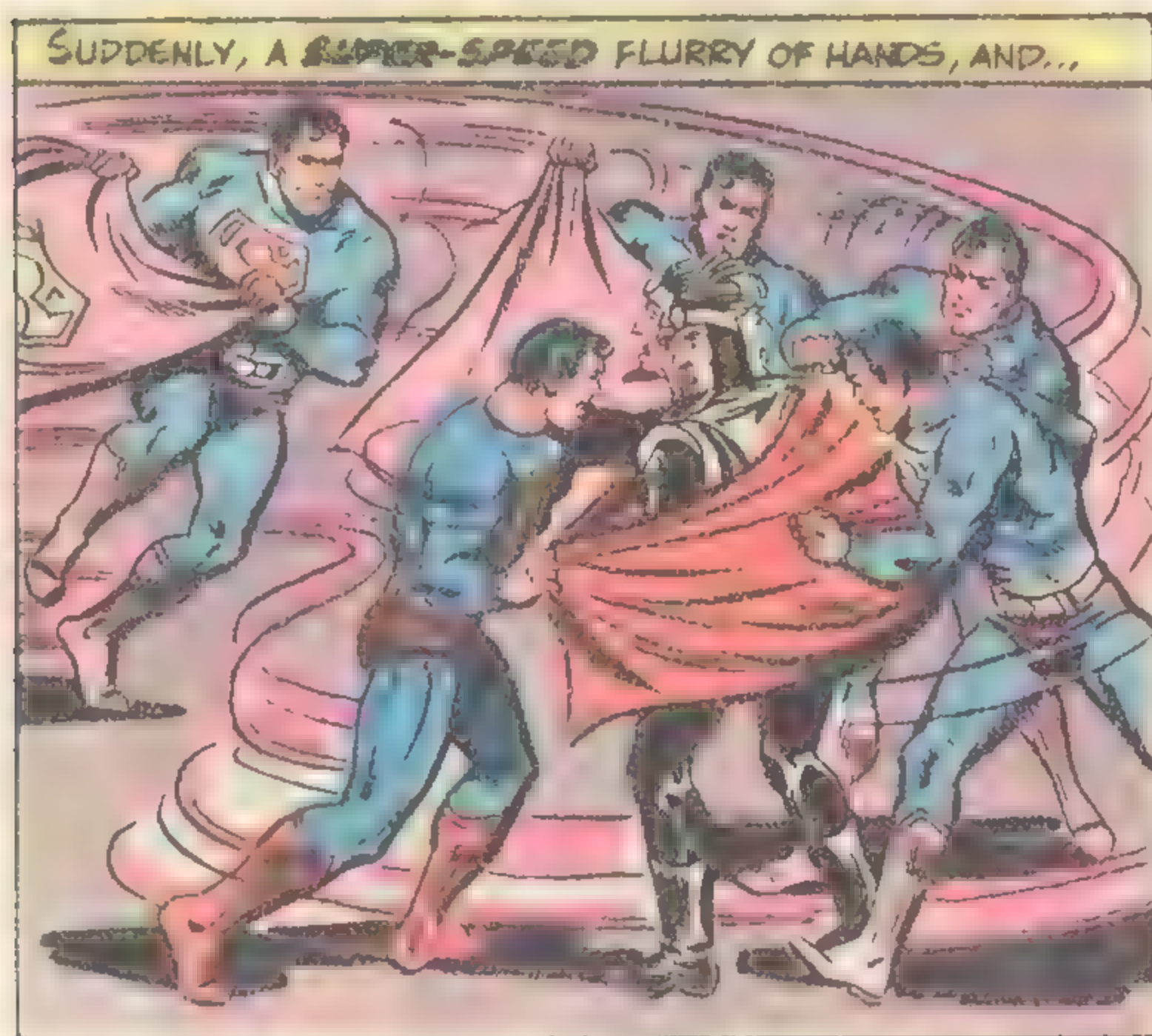
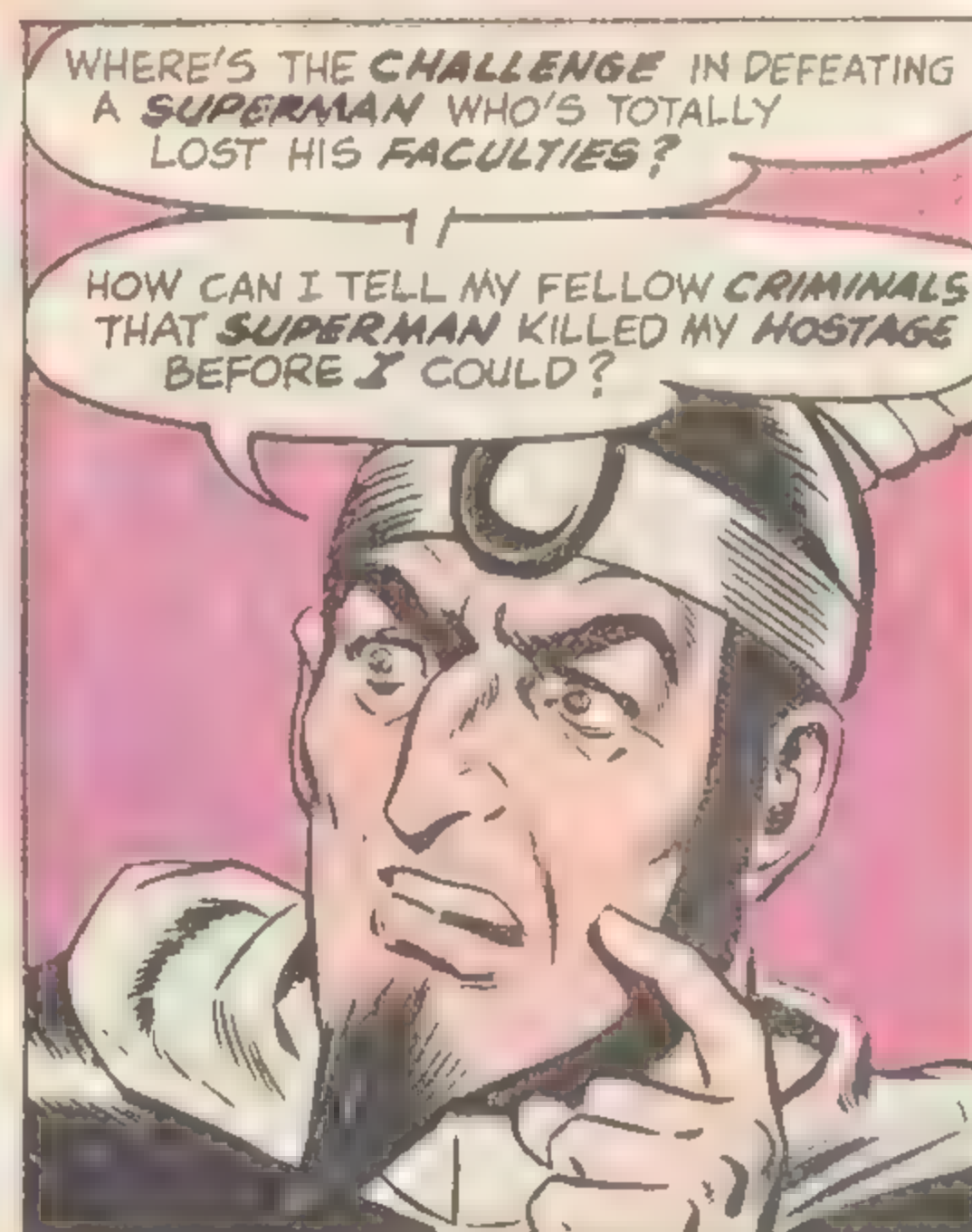
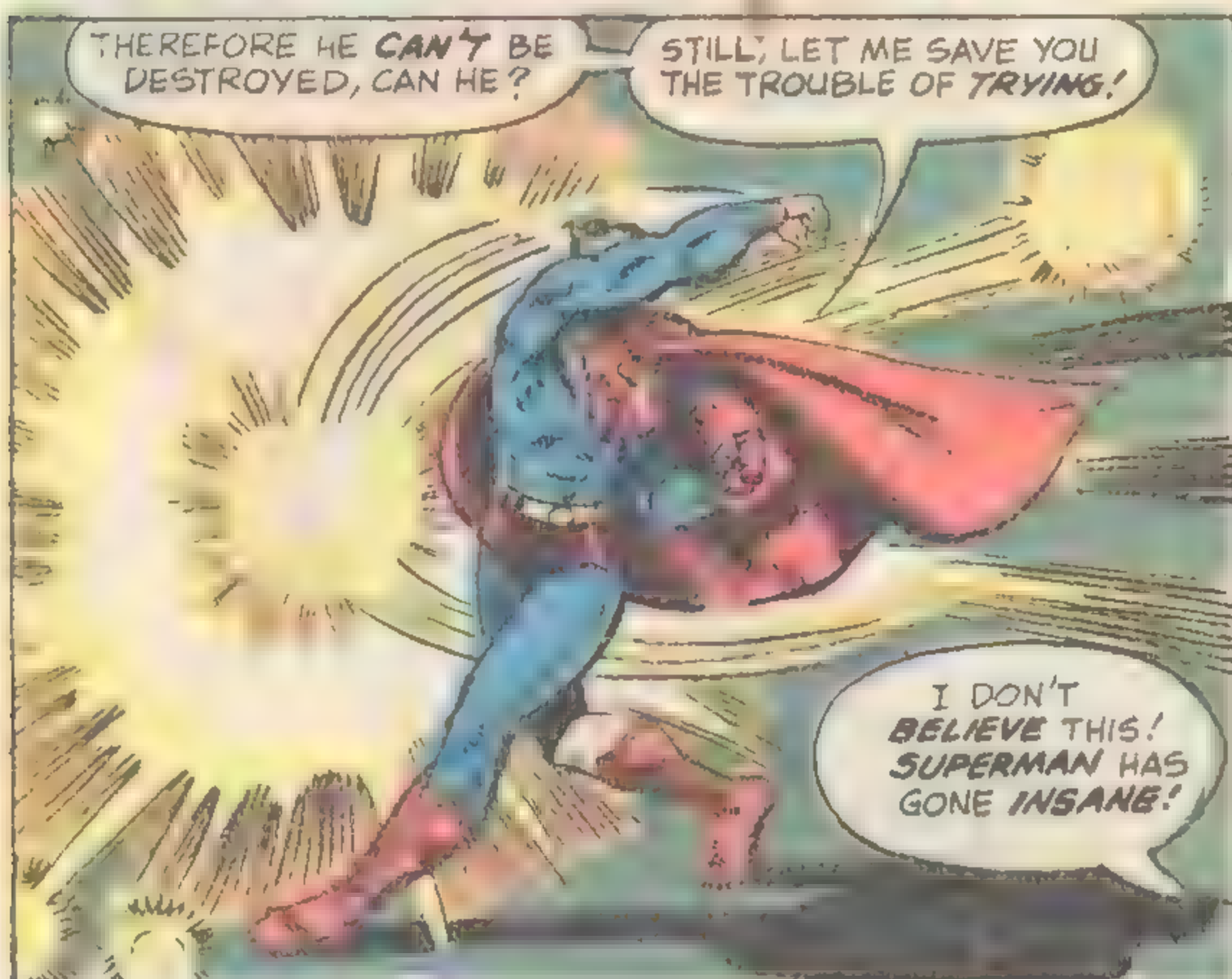
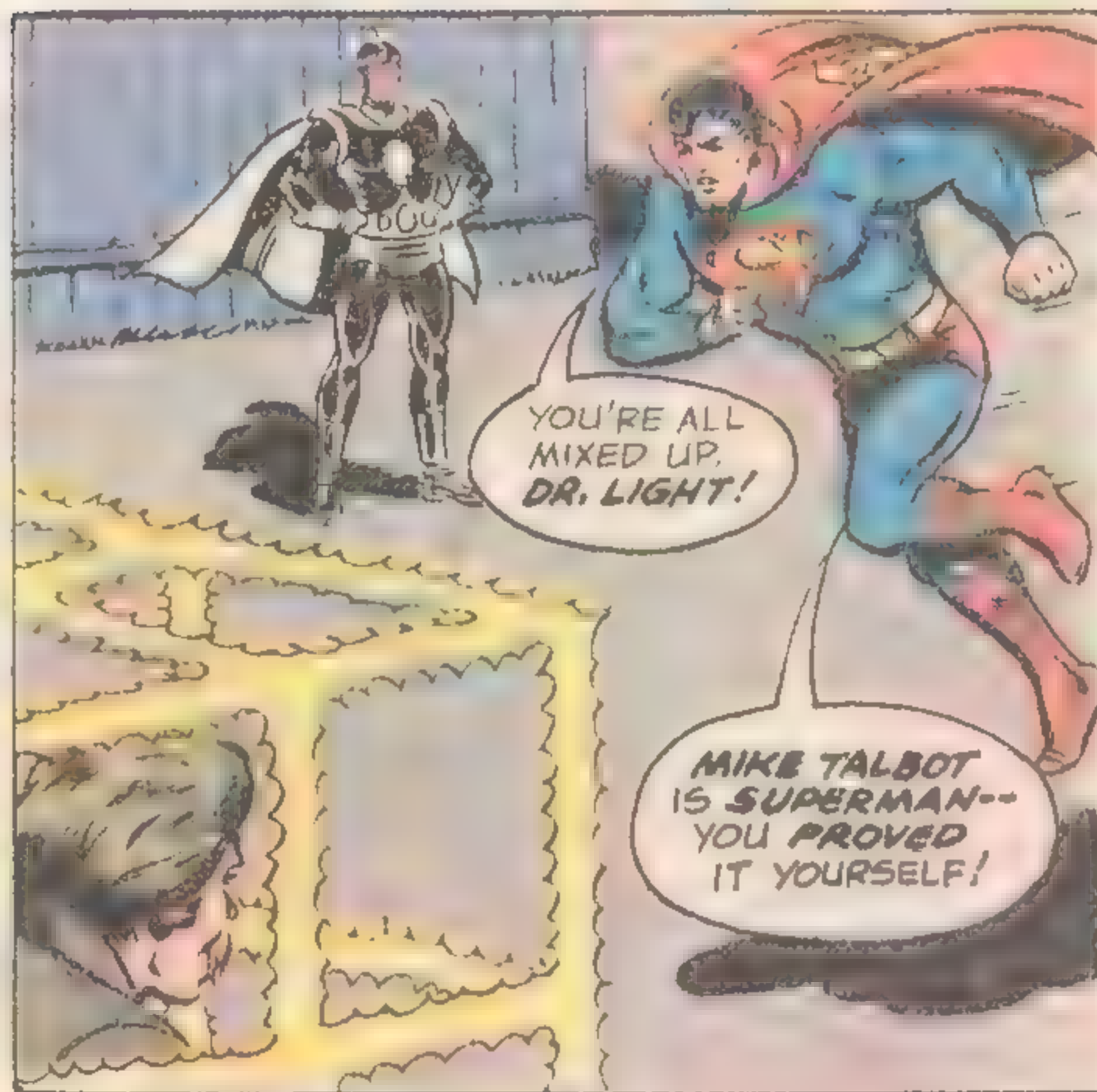
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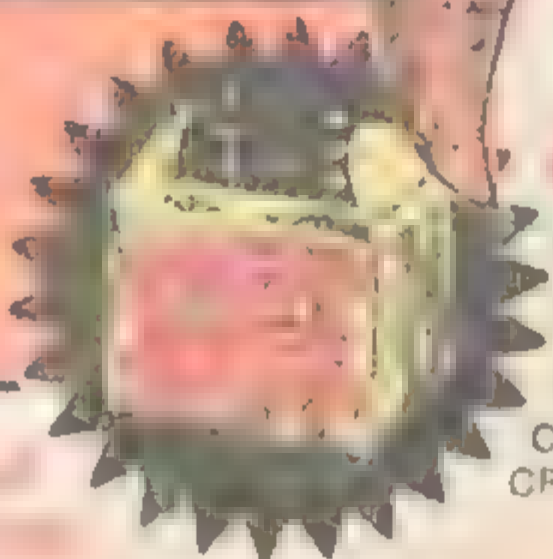
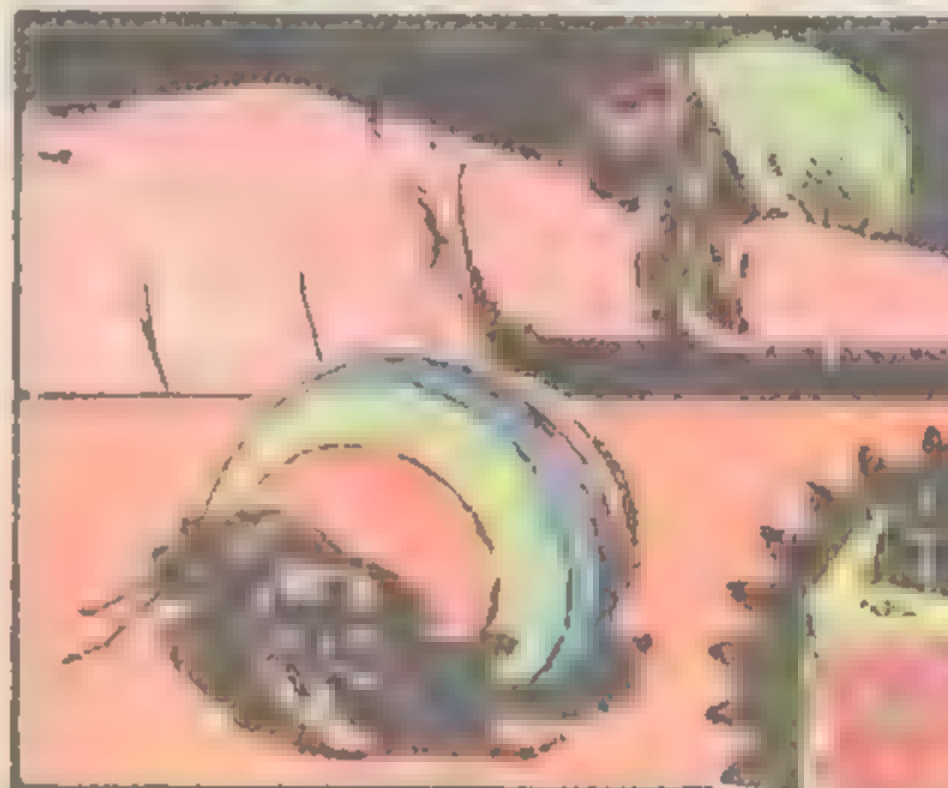
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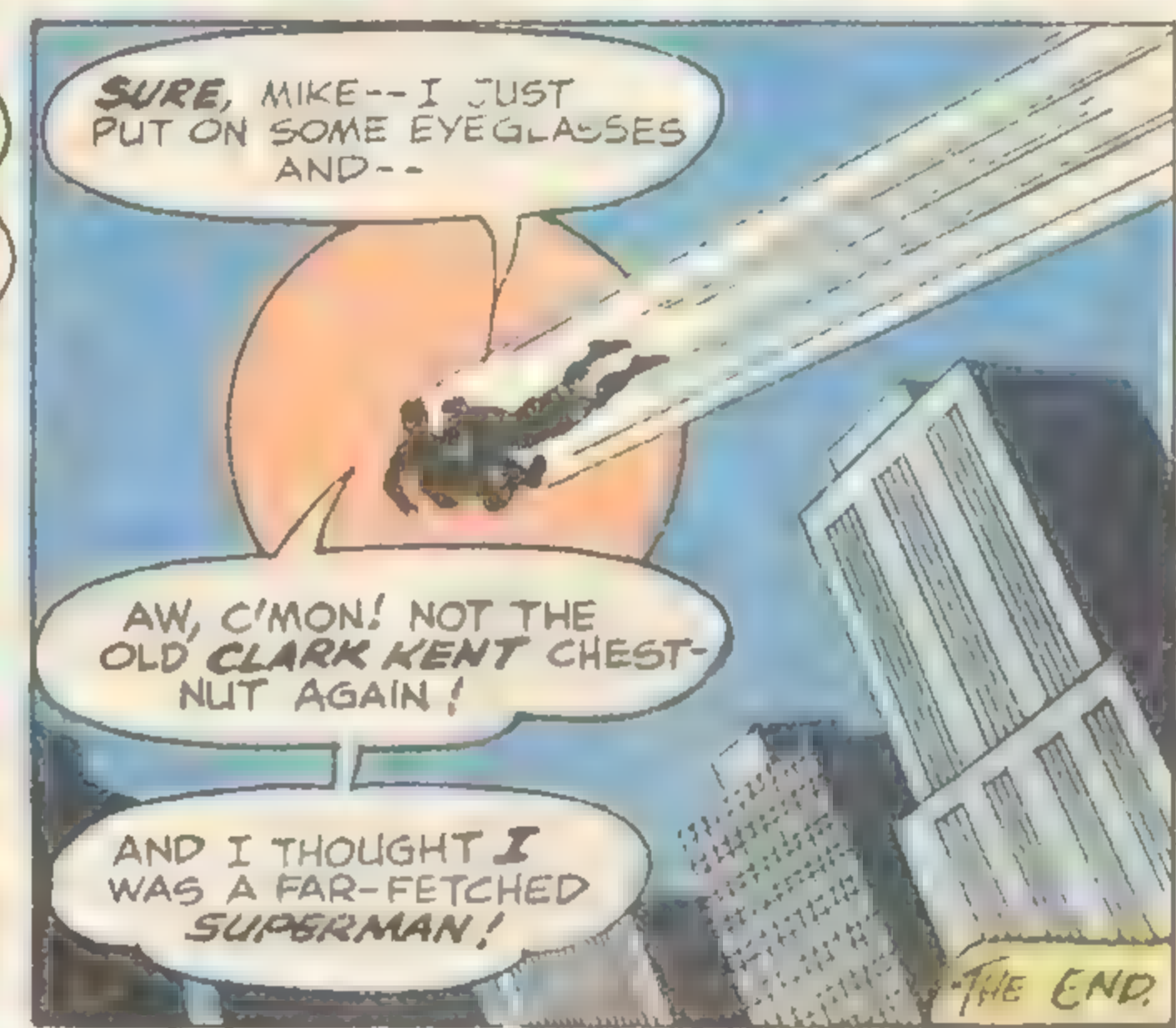
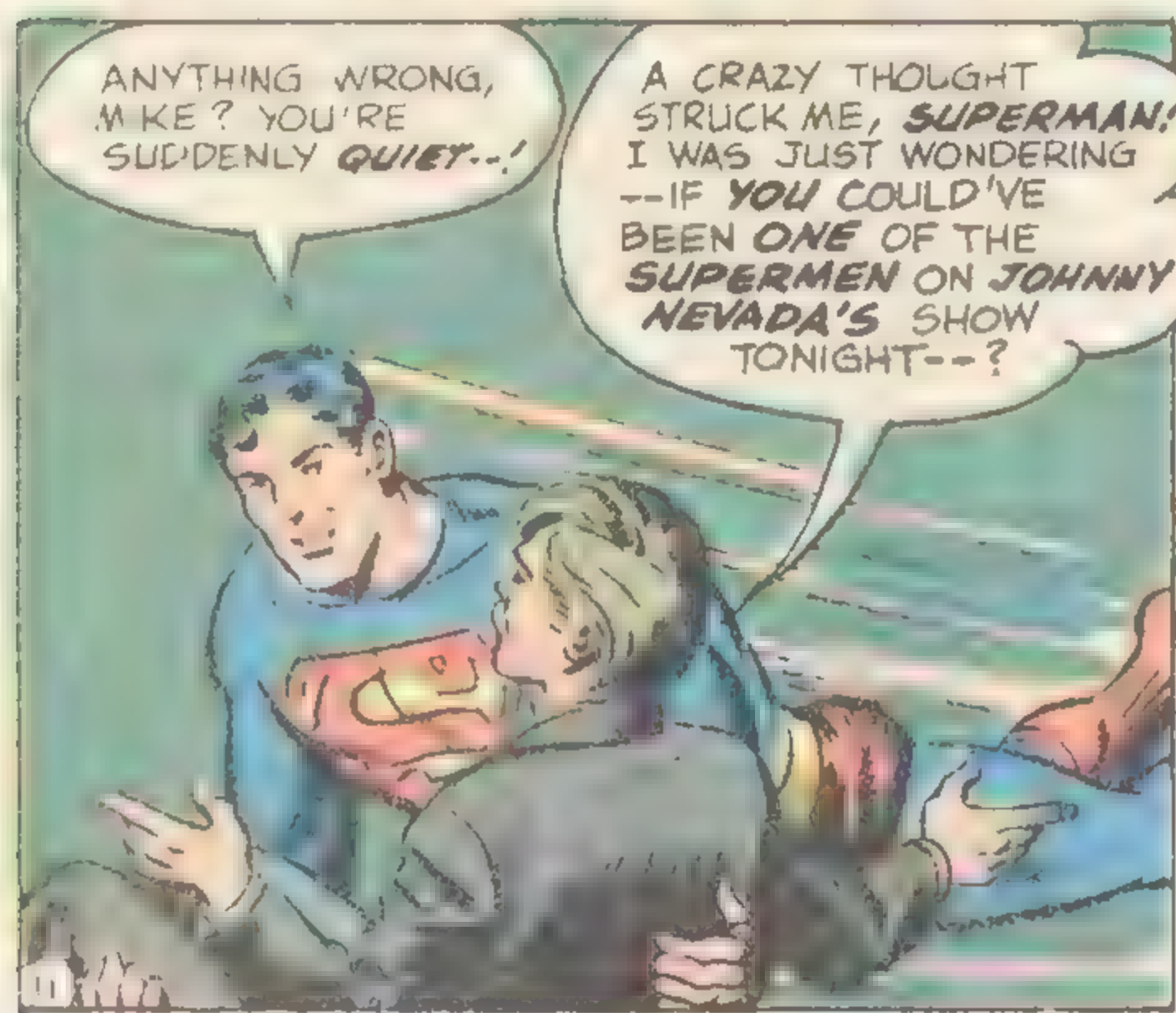
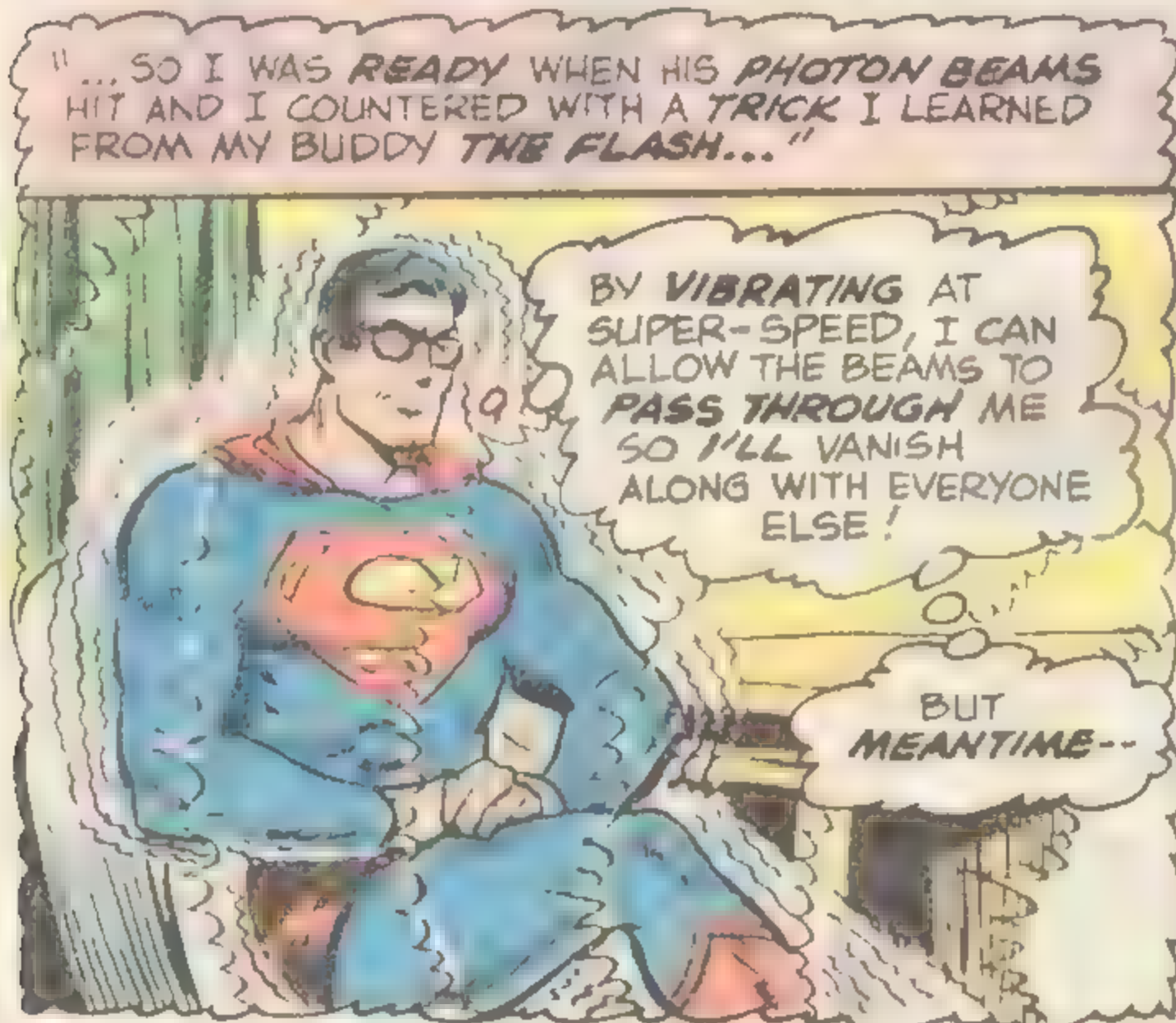
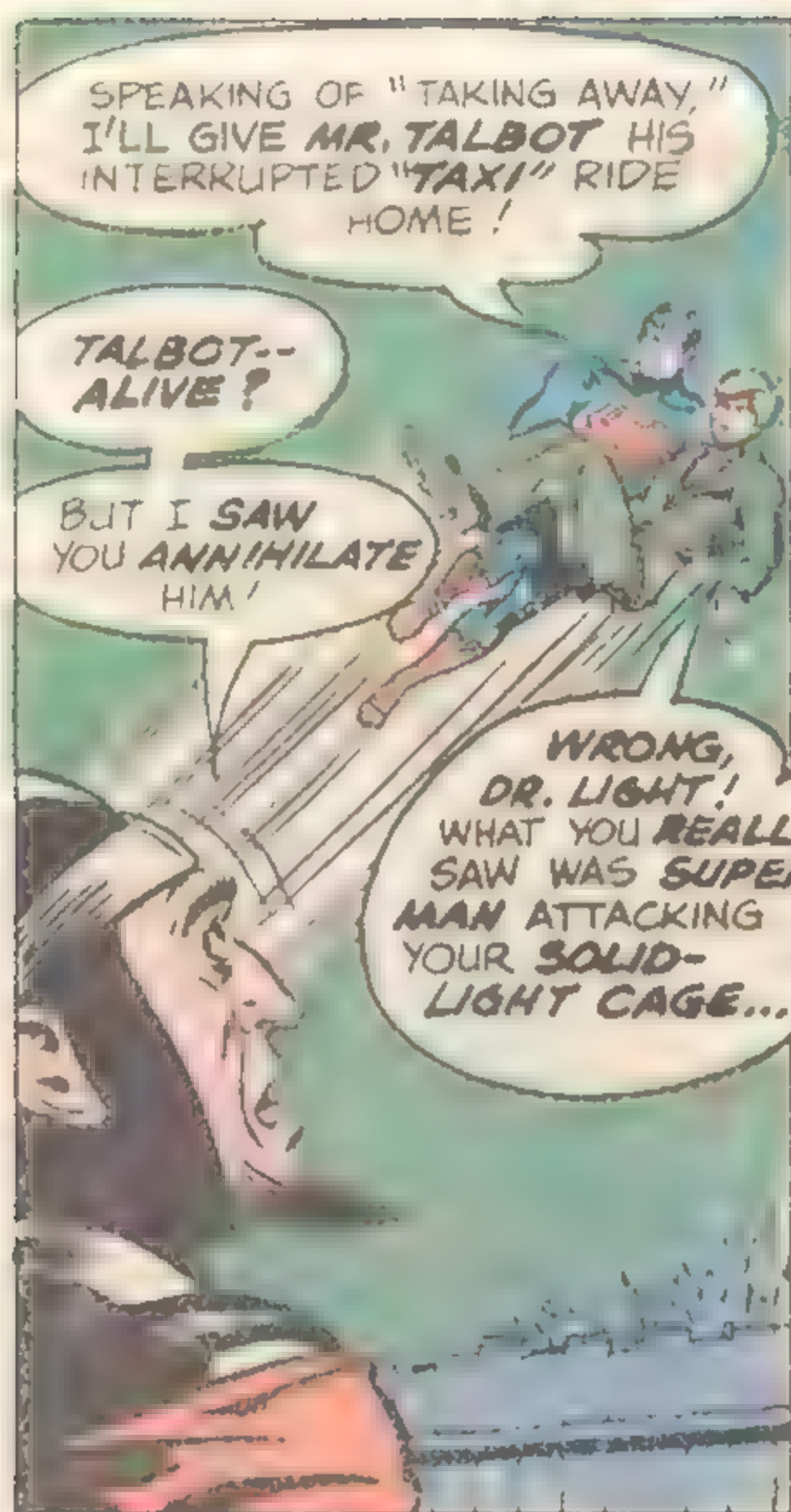
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CAPTAIN MARVEL BATTLES RAINBOW SQUAD

(Columbus, Ohio)—*Captain Marvel* faces his deadliest challenge when he comes up against the *Rainbow Squad*, six fabulous females, each with a power similar to one of Cap's own! Can the Big Red Cheese stop them—and who is the mysterious *Mr. Wonderful* who sends them on their crime campaign? You'll find the answers in "The Rainbow Squad" by E. Nelson Bridwell, Kurt Schaffenberger and Vince Colletta in *SHAZAM* #31.

And also in that same issue, which goes on sale the week of June 6th, you'll see the startling return to action of *Minute Man*, a hero who has not been seen since 1944! It's a nostalgic treat you won't want to miss!



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KARATE KID #10—It's back to the future for KK and a "Death Duel on Orlando" by Barry Jameson, Ric Estrada and Jack Abel. The Legion of Super-Heroes guests stars.

SUPERMAN #315—Meet Las Vegas, the man who says "Good Evening, Superman—I'm Clark Kent . . . and You're Not" in this Marty Pasko/Curt Swan/Dan Adkins super-story.

WEIRD WAR TALES #55—Arnold Drake and Bill Draut unleash "The Abominable Weapon" and then "A Rebel Shall Rise From the Gravel!"

WELCOME BACK, KOTTER #6—The Kotters get a strange baby-sitting job and the Sweathogs get a mascot in the form of "Petunia—The Elephant Who Joined the Sweathogs" by Bob Toomey, Ric Estrada and Bill Draut

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: How does *Superman* fly? Is it because the gravity on his native planet Krypton was so much greater than Earth's?—Jonathan Saxton. **A:** Yes, but since you already knew the answer, why ask me?

Q: Are *Omac*, *Sandman* or *Mister Miracle* ever going to reappear?—Anthony Pignataro. **A:** *Omac* resurfaced in *KAMANDI* #50. *Mister Miracle* returns in his own magazine later this month, and as for *Sandman*, well, you never can tell . . .

Q: Can you name some of the super-villains the JLA has fought?—J. DeBisceglie. **A:** Sure, *Starro the Conqueror*, *Felix Faust*, *Dr. Light*, the *Royal Flush Gang*, *Amazo*, *Shaggy Man*, *The Joker*, the *Injustice Gang*, *Kanjar Ro*, etc. etc. etc.

Q: When can I sell my comics for the highest prices?—Pat Hagan. **A:** When the person willing to pay the highest prices is ready to buy!

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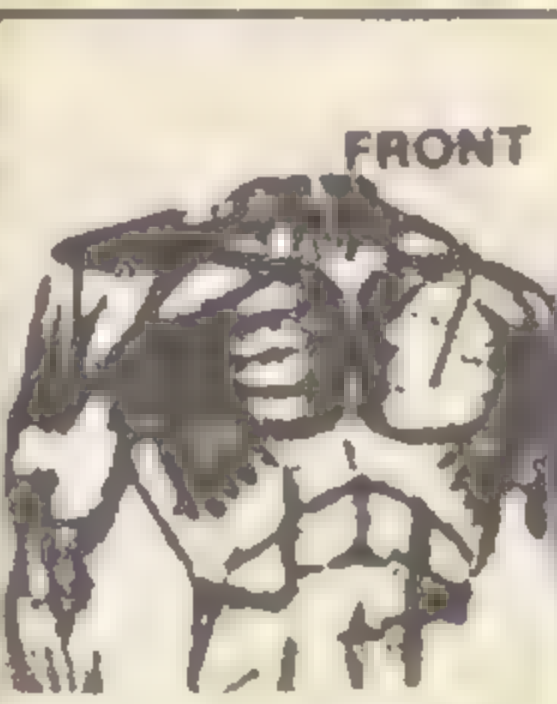
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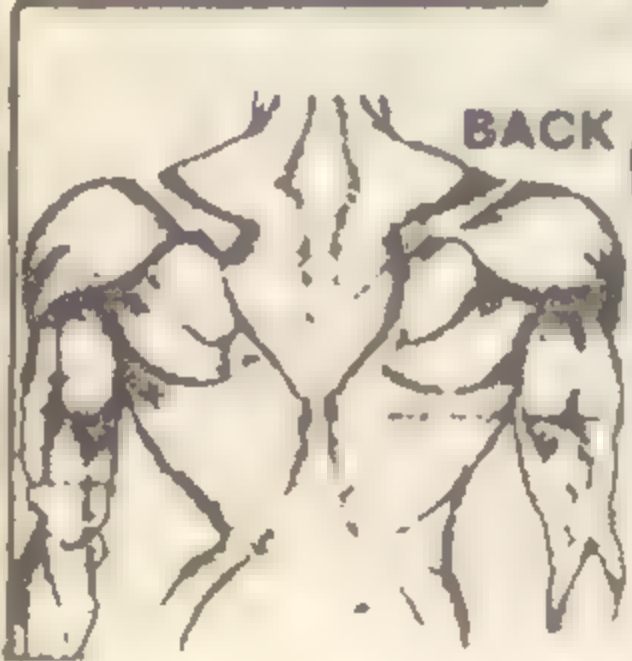
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SOLD ON MONEY BACK GUARANTEE.

Dear Diary:

My public habits are as much a part of my secret identity as the suits I wear. This morning, for example, I arrived at work the same time as usual... walked into the Galaxy Building lobby...



...and, as always, stopped at Benny's newsstand for the Daily Planet and a lottery ticket...



TAKE A TICKET, MR. KENT... ANY TICKET?

OKAY-- THIS ONE!

"Forcing" a certain ticket on me is a standard magic trick with Benny...

LET'S SEE... DON'T TELL ME... IT'S NUMBER 3721189! RIGHT--?

TO THE LAST DIGIT! AMAZING, BENNY!

THAT'LL BE ONE DOLLAR, PLEASE!



BENNY'S NEW

THE PRIVATE LIFE OF
CLARK KENT



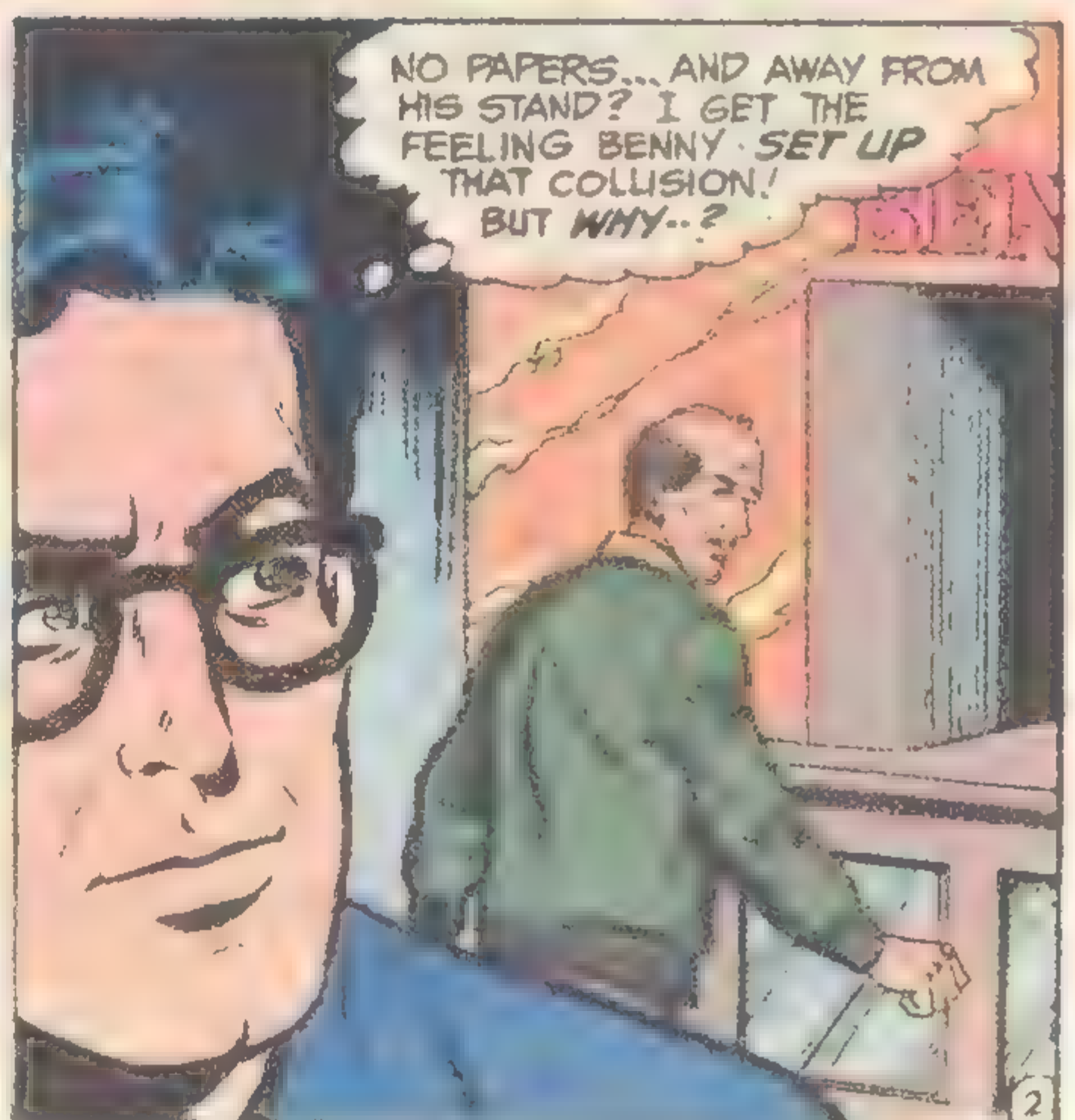
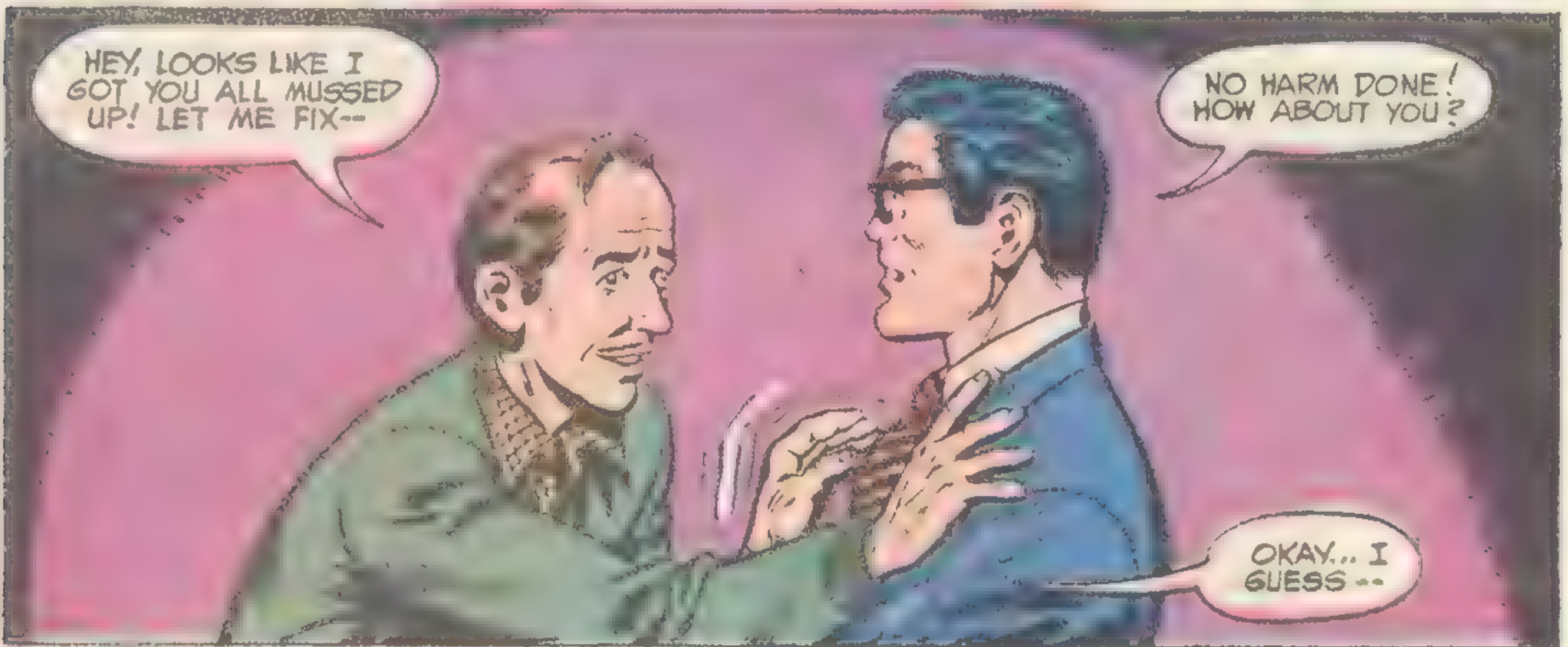
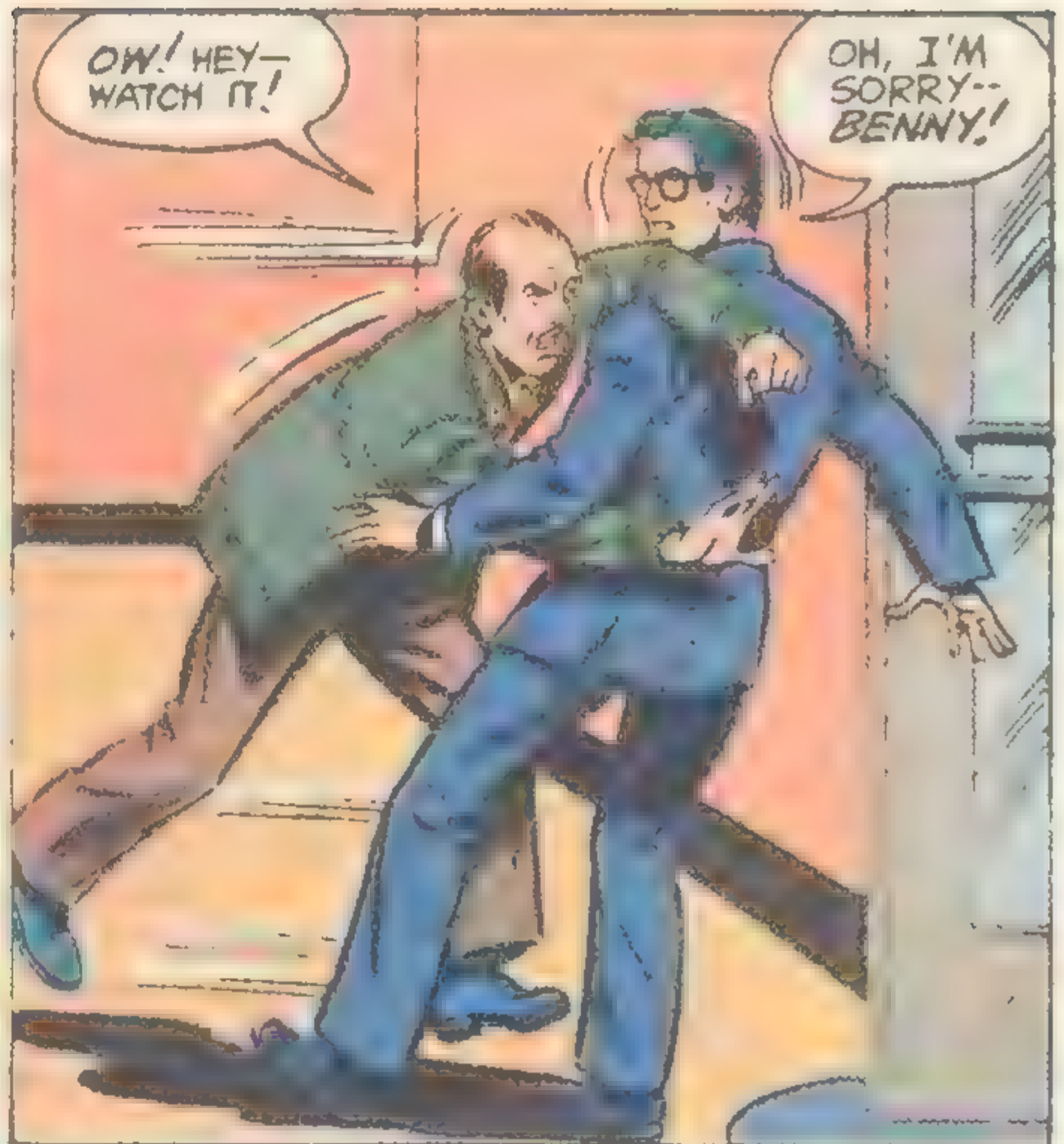
GOOD LUCK, MR. KENT!

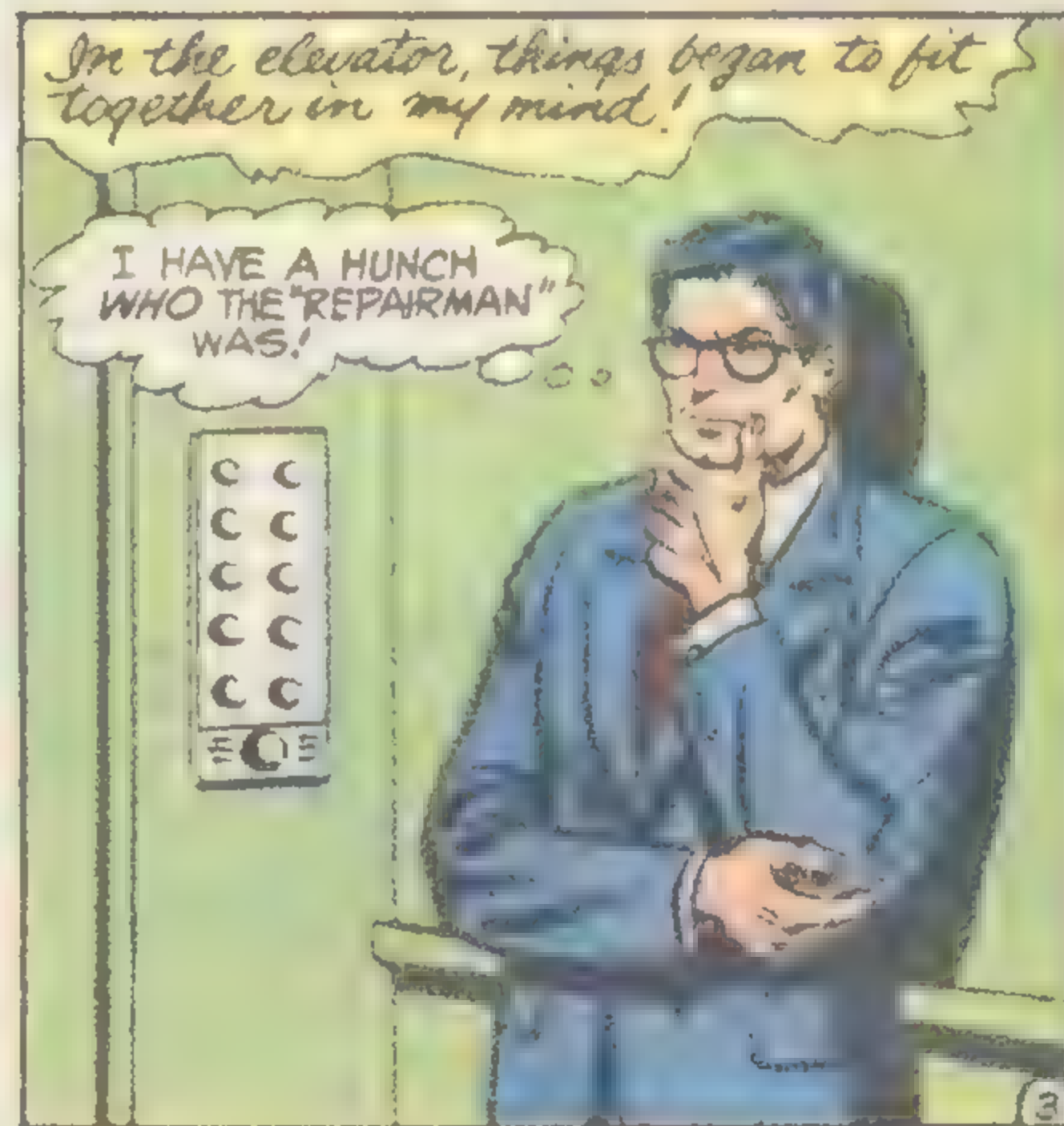
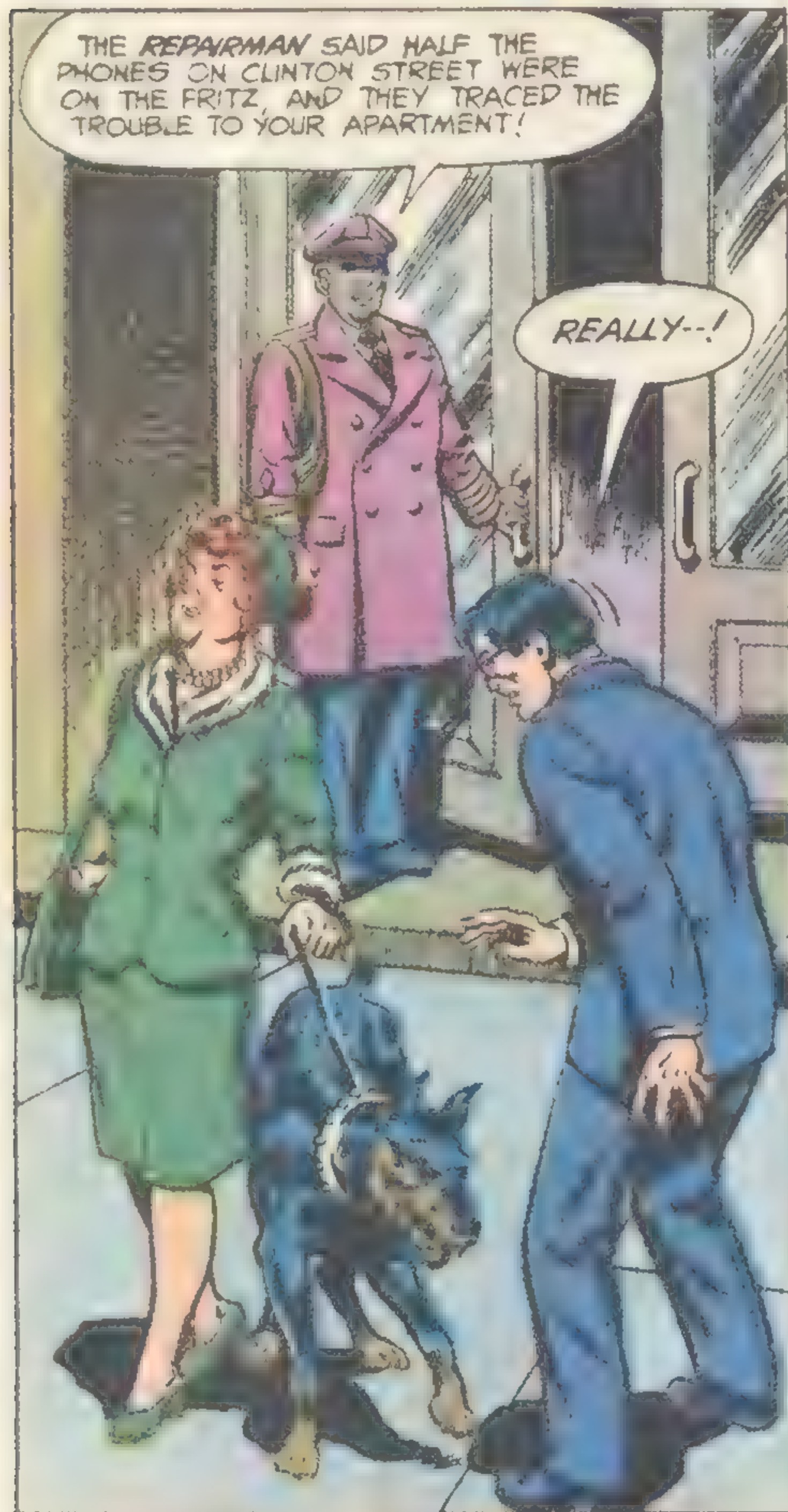
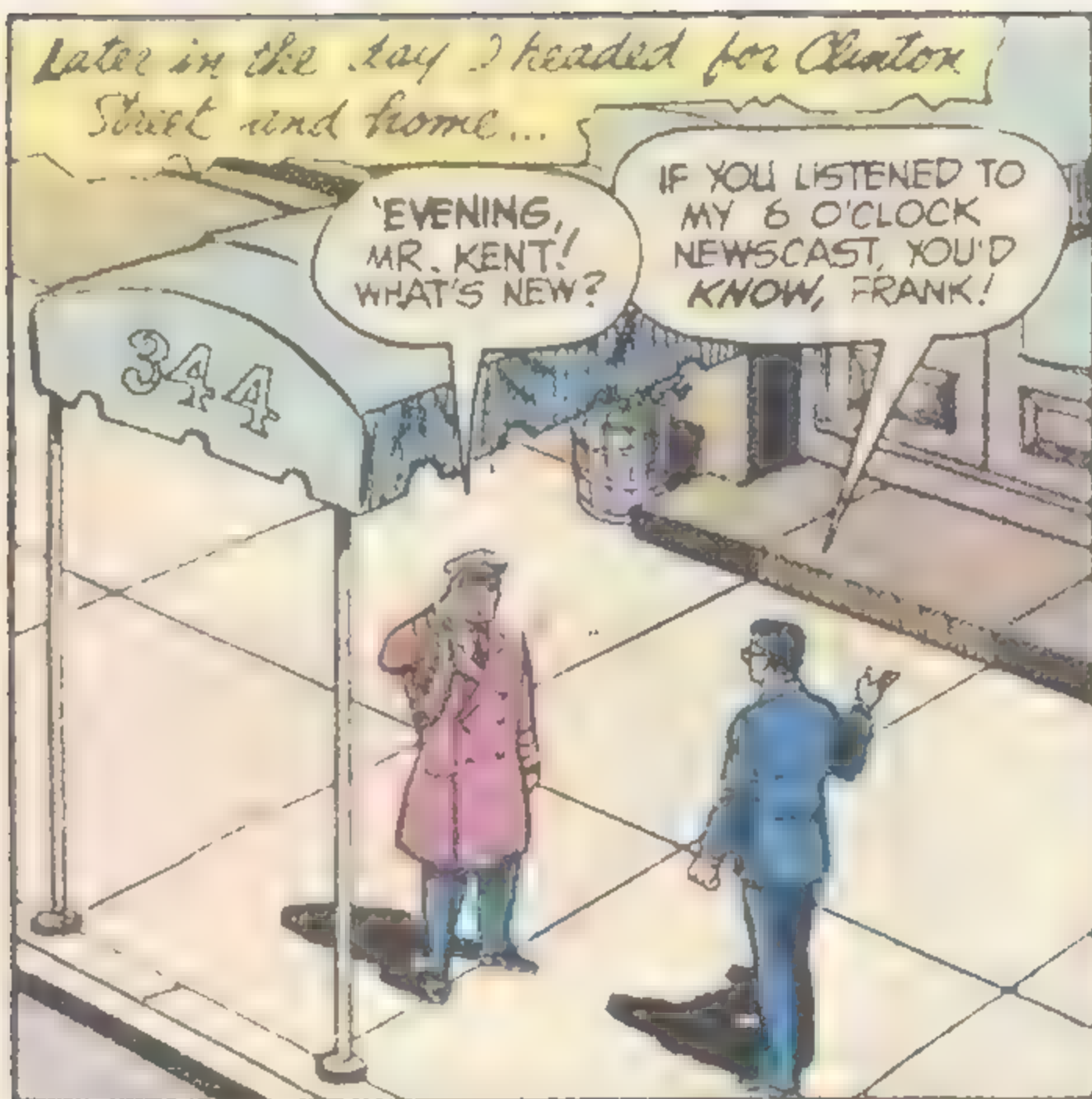


THANKS, BENNY.

My only interest in the lottery is the money that is allocated for education! But I have a feeling today's ticket will be something special! It will be the...

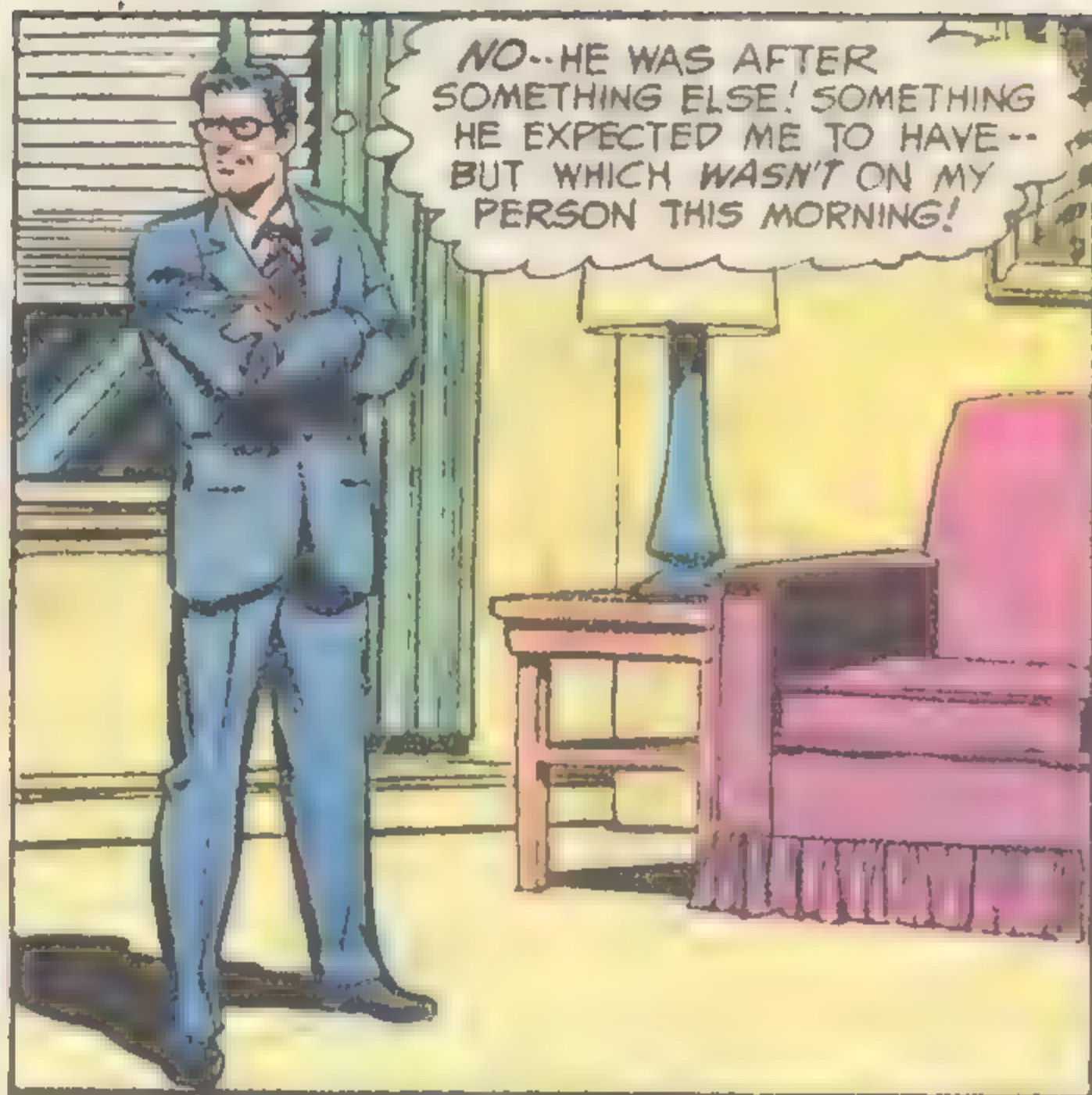
"ONE FOR THE MONEY!"







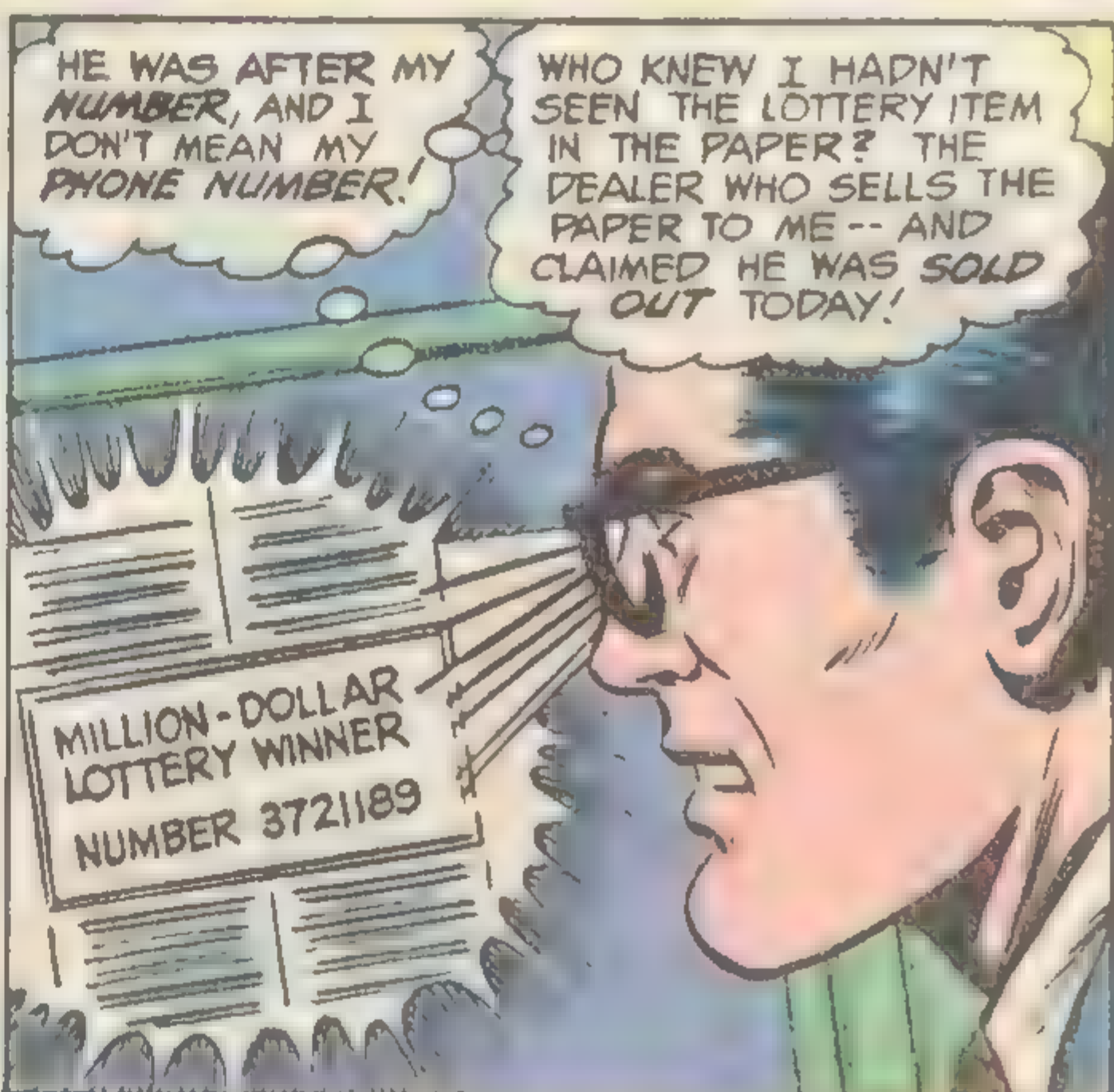
NOTHING MISSING! IF HE WAS OUT TO EXPOSE MY **SUPERMAN** IDENTITY, HE FAILED! HE'D NEED TNT OR X-RAY VISION-- TO DIG OUT THOSE SECRETS!



NO--HE WAS AFTER SOMETHING ELSE! SOMETHING HE EXPECTED ME TO HAVE-- BUT WHICH WASN'T ON MY PERSON THIS MORNING!

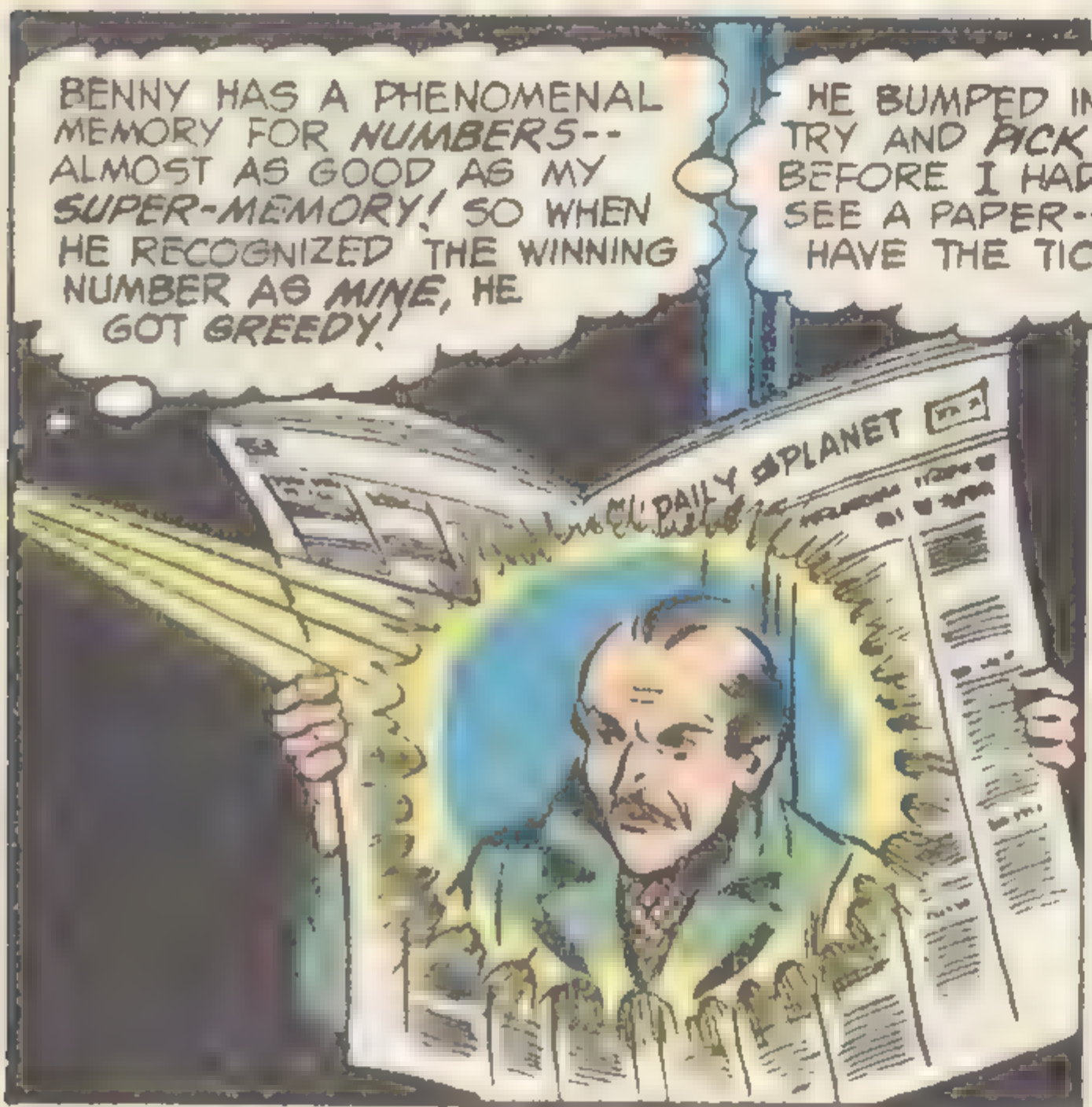


I looked out the window-- and there was my "hunch", leaning on a lamppost across the street, pretending to read a paper!



HE WAS AFTER MY **NUMBER**, AND I DON'T MEAN MY **PHONE NUMBER**!

WHO KNEW I HADN'T SEEN THE LOTTERY ITEM IN THE PAPER? THE DEALER WHO SELLS THE PAPER TO ME -- AND CLAIMED HE WAS **SOLD OUT** TODAY!



BENNY HAS A PHENOMENAL MEMORY FOR **NUMBERS**-- ALMOST AS GOOD AS MY **SUPER-MEMORY**! SO WHEN HE RECOGNIZED THE WINNING NUMBER AS **MINE**, HE GOT **GREEDY**!

HE BUMPED INTO ME TO TRY AND **PICK MY POCKET**-- BEFORE I HAD A CHANCE TO SEE A PAPER--ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE THE TICKET ON ME!



AFTER HE LIED ABOUT BEING **SOLD OUT**, HE GAINED ENTRY TO MY APARTMENT AS A **REPAIRMAN**, SO HE COULD LOOK FOR IT THERE!

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R. Bonham

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T. B. Pinsoneault

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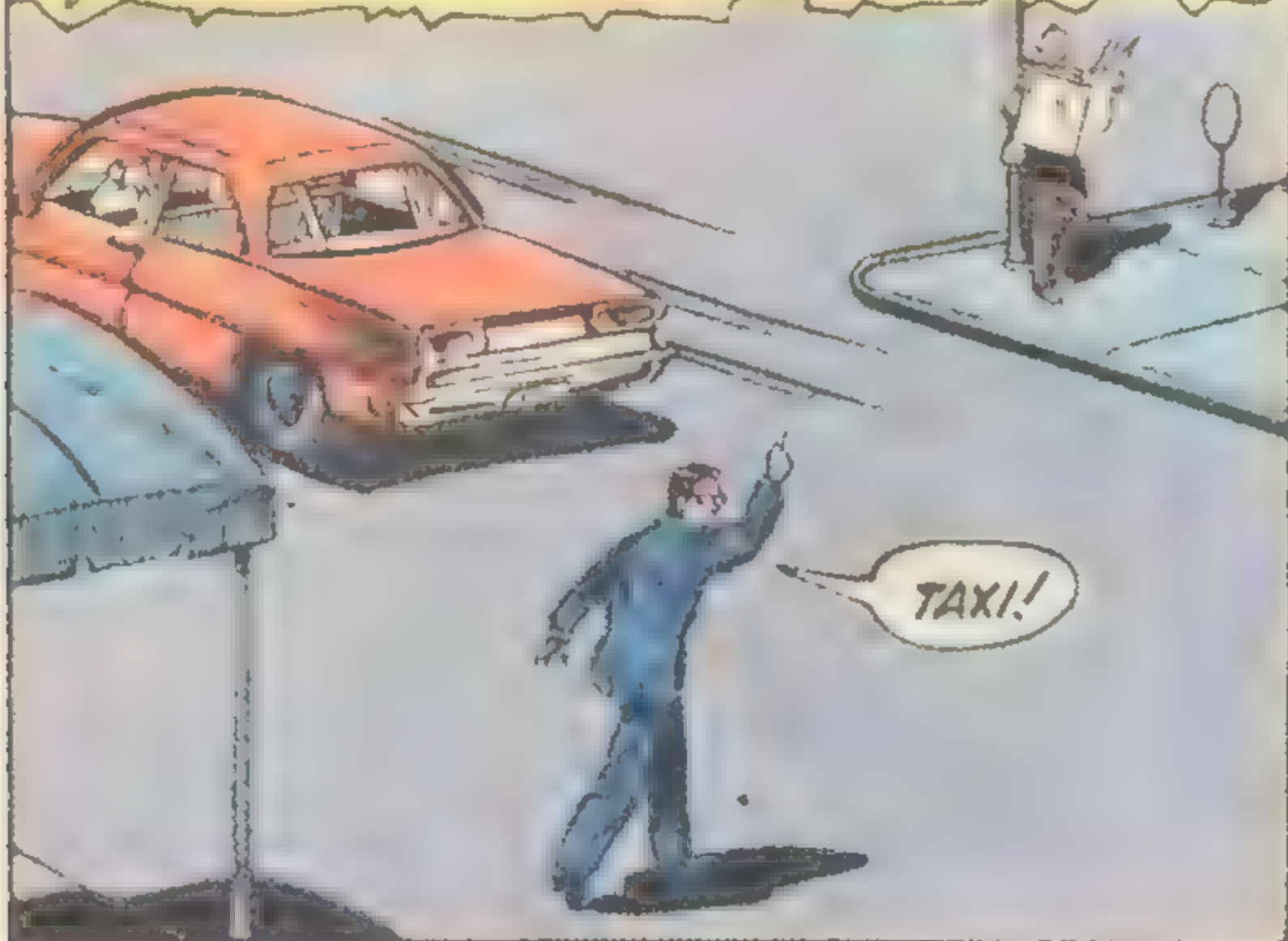
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2. Enter as often as you like, but be sure each entry is complete with all the necessary letters and each entry is mailed individually.
3. Only the entire coupon - containing the phrase "The Great Superman Movie Contest" and the specific letter - will be valid.
4. All entries must be received by DC Comics before 5 PM, July 15, 1977. All entries will be placed in a drum and two first prize envelopes will be selected on July 18, 1977 on the set of the Superman movie. First prize winners will be notified by telegram. Second prize drawings will be held during the week of July 18, 1977; winners will be notified by mail.
5. Employees of Warner Communications Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates, and DC Comics' free-lance artists, writers, colorists, and letterers, any of the participating wholesalers of Independent News Company, and the immediate families of those employees are specifically excluded from this contest.
6. There are no age or racial restrictions; males and females are equally eligible to win. First prize winners must be available for work on the Superman Movie set during a specific date and time in late summer of 1977. During this period, the first prize winners and each winner's companion will be taken on a personal tour of DC Comics in New York. If the first prize winner is a minor, said winner's companion must be a parent or guardian of the winner.
7. Second prize winners will receive a card in the mail offering the various prizes, from which they will indicate their preferences. These prizes will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis; and all second prize winners will receive one of their noted preferences.
8. Contest void where prohibited by law and subject to all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

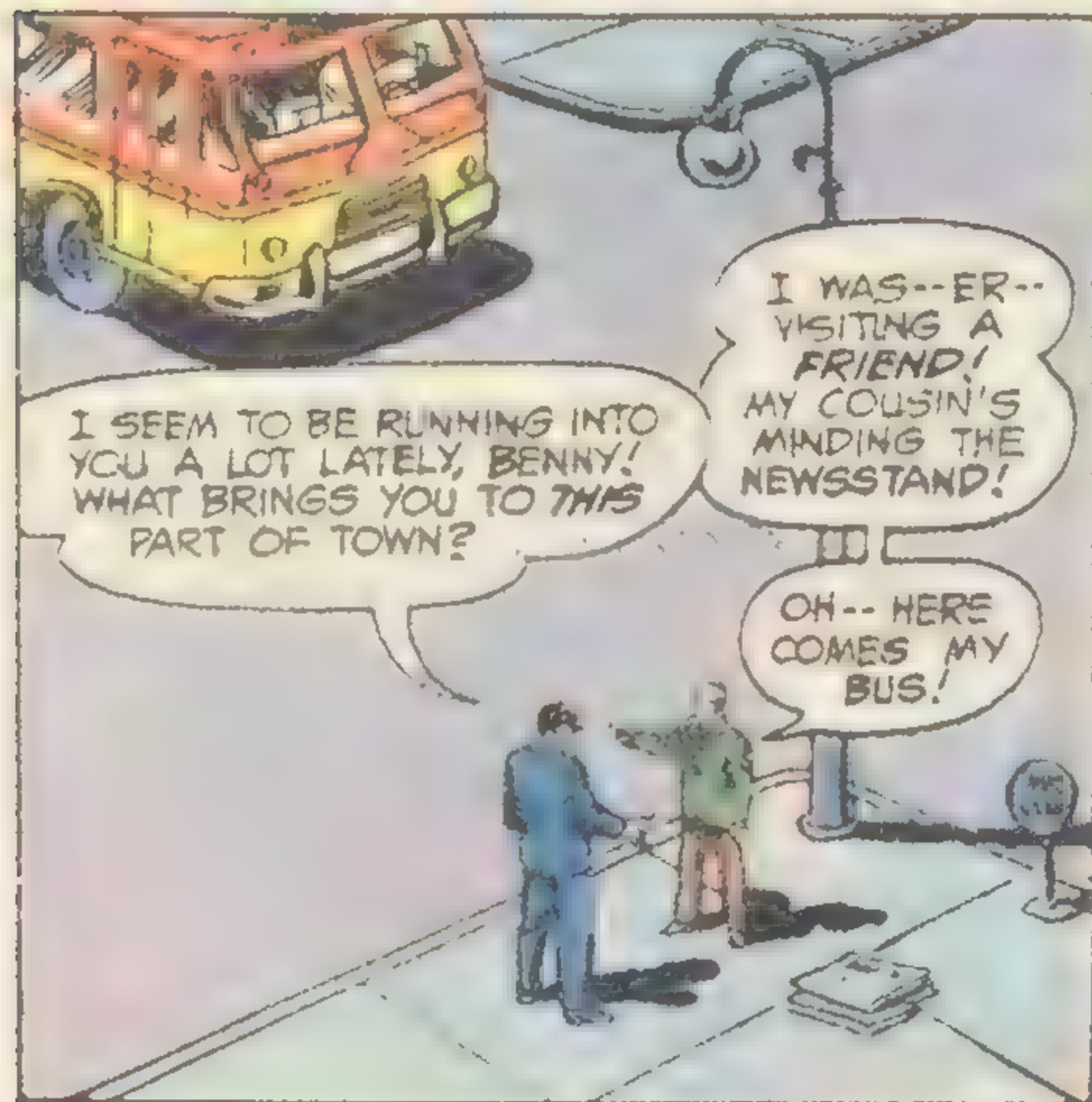
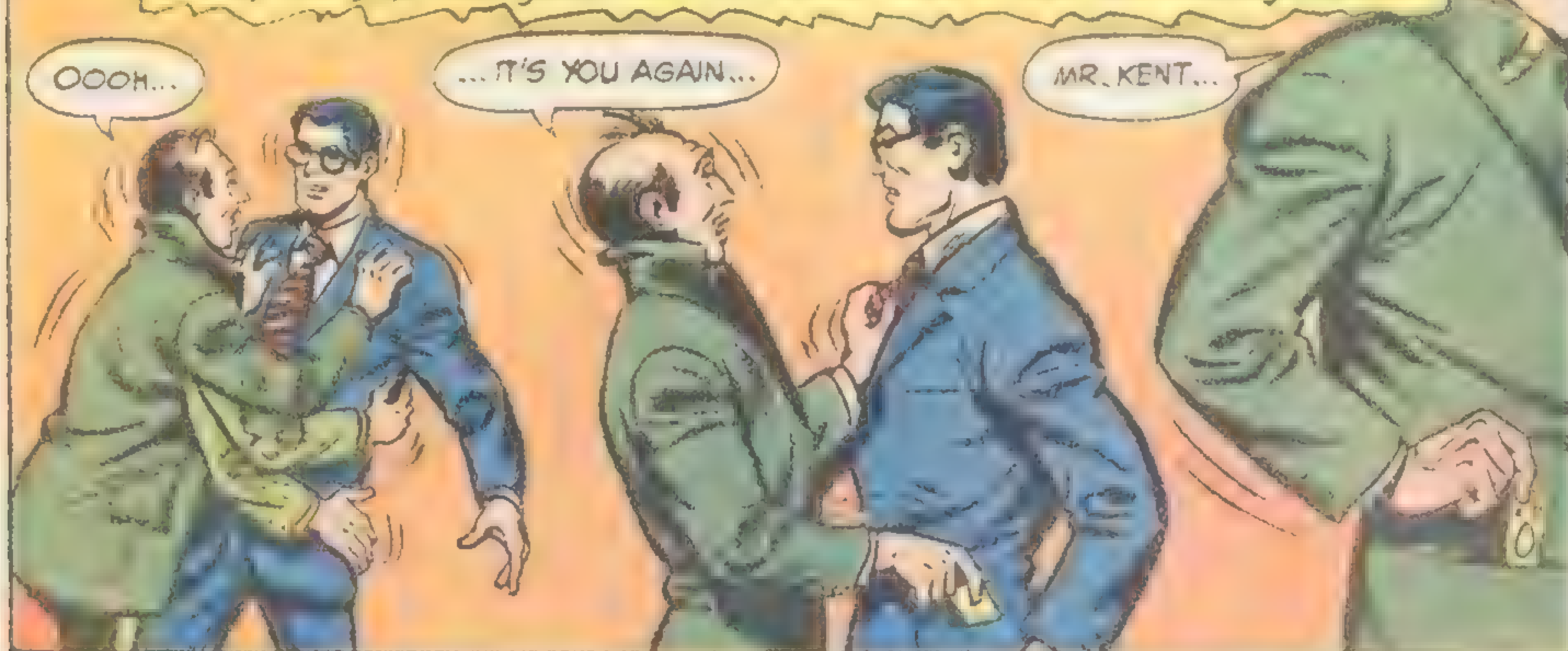
Stealing a \$1.00 ticket is petty theft... but Benny was out to commit grand larceny--by copping a million! Yet so far, I had no real evidence against him... and I was determined to get it...



My reputation for clumsiness has its advantages...

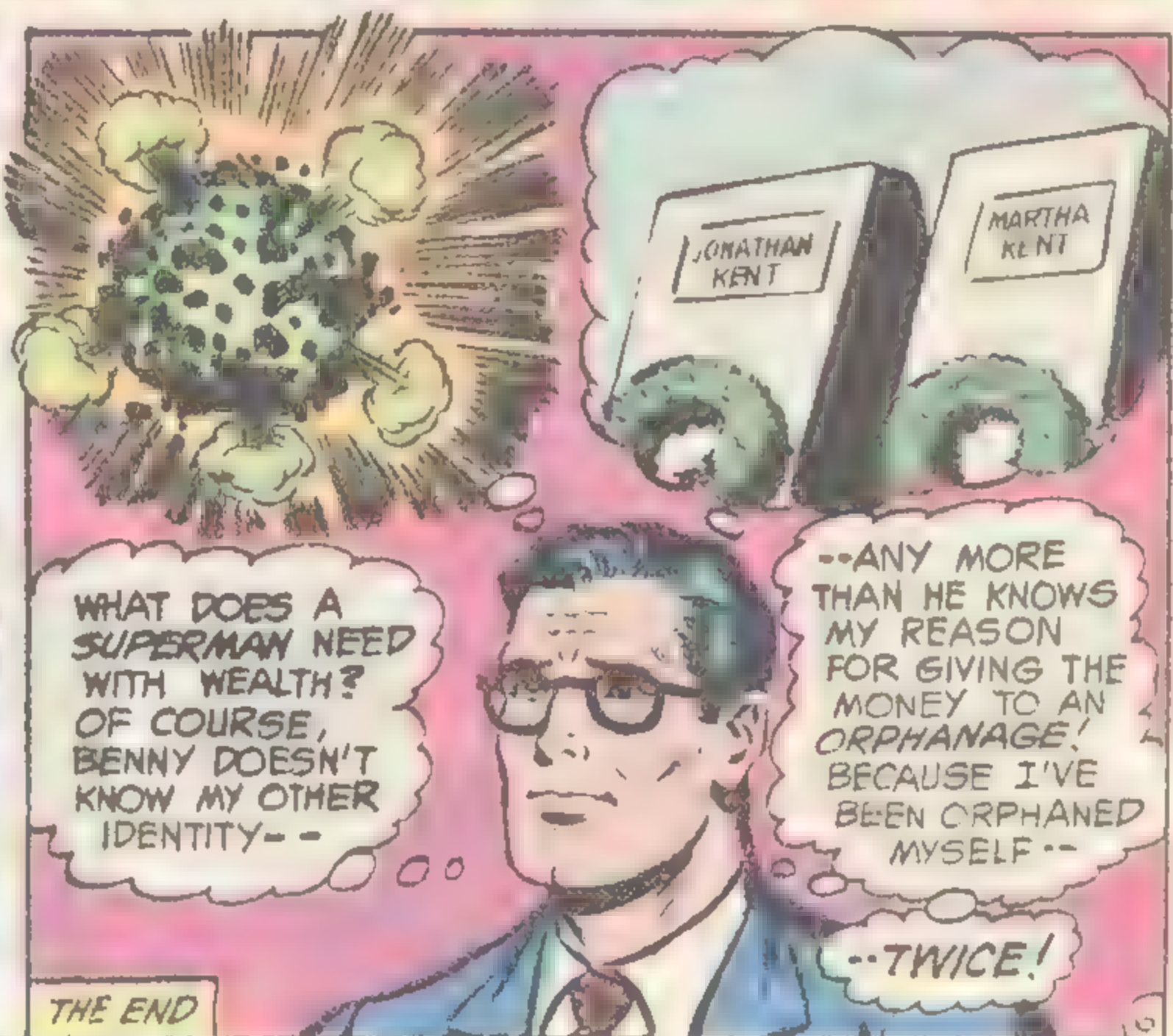
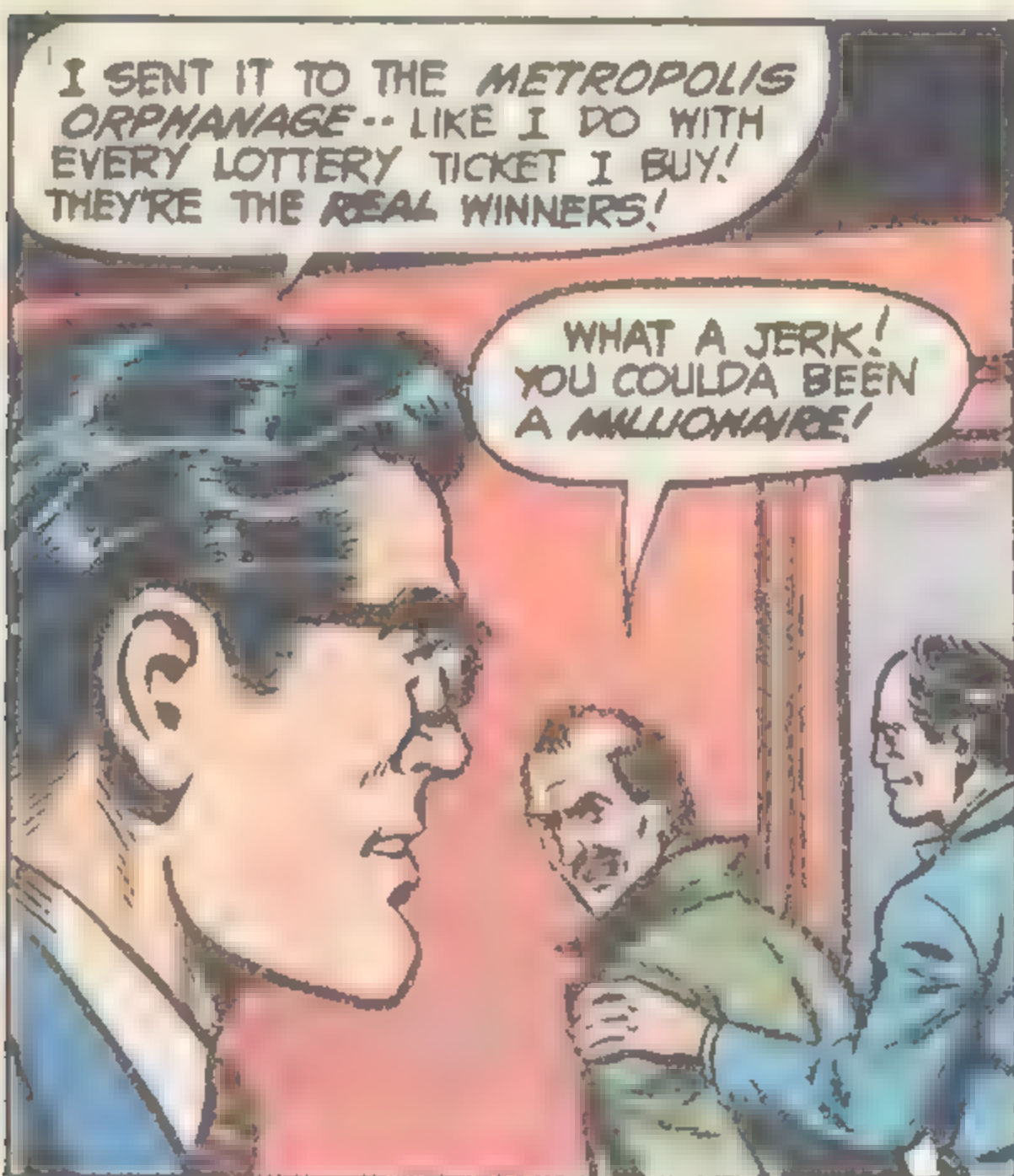
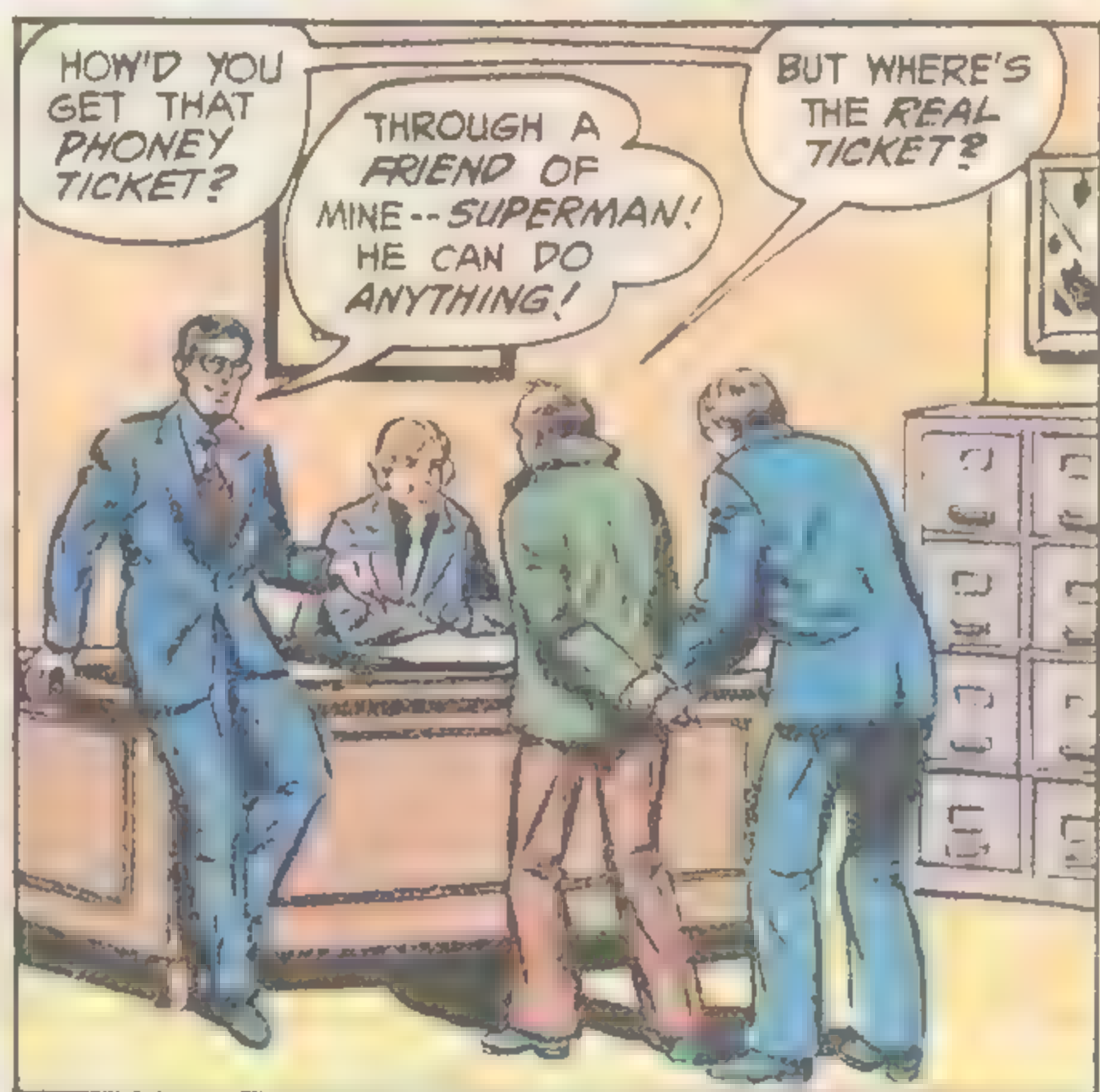
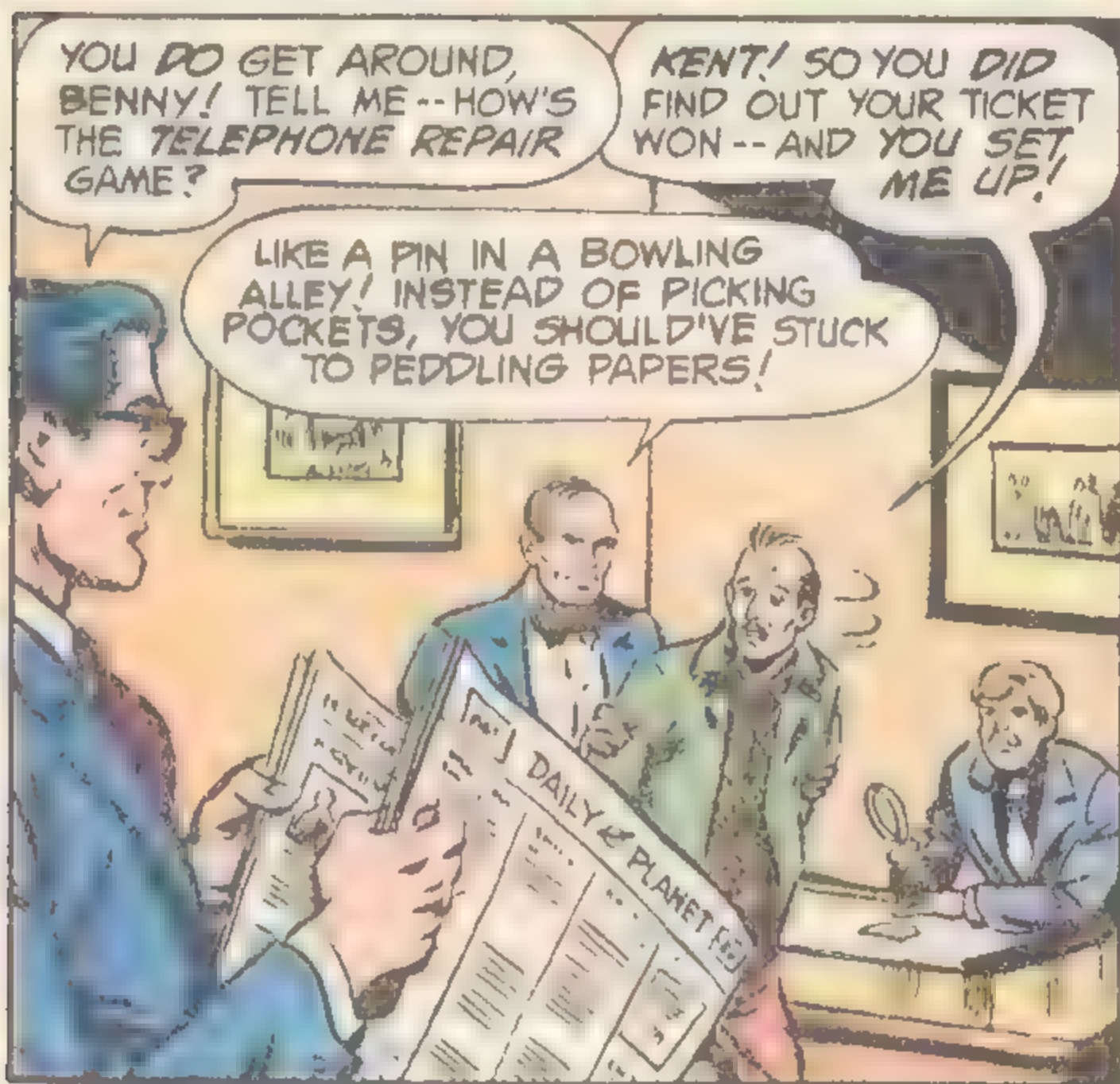
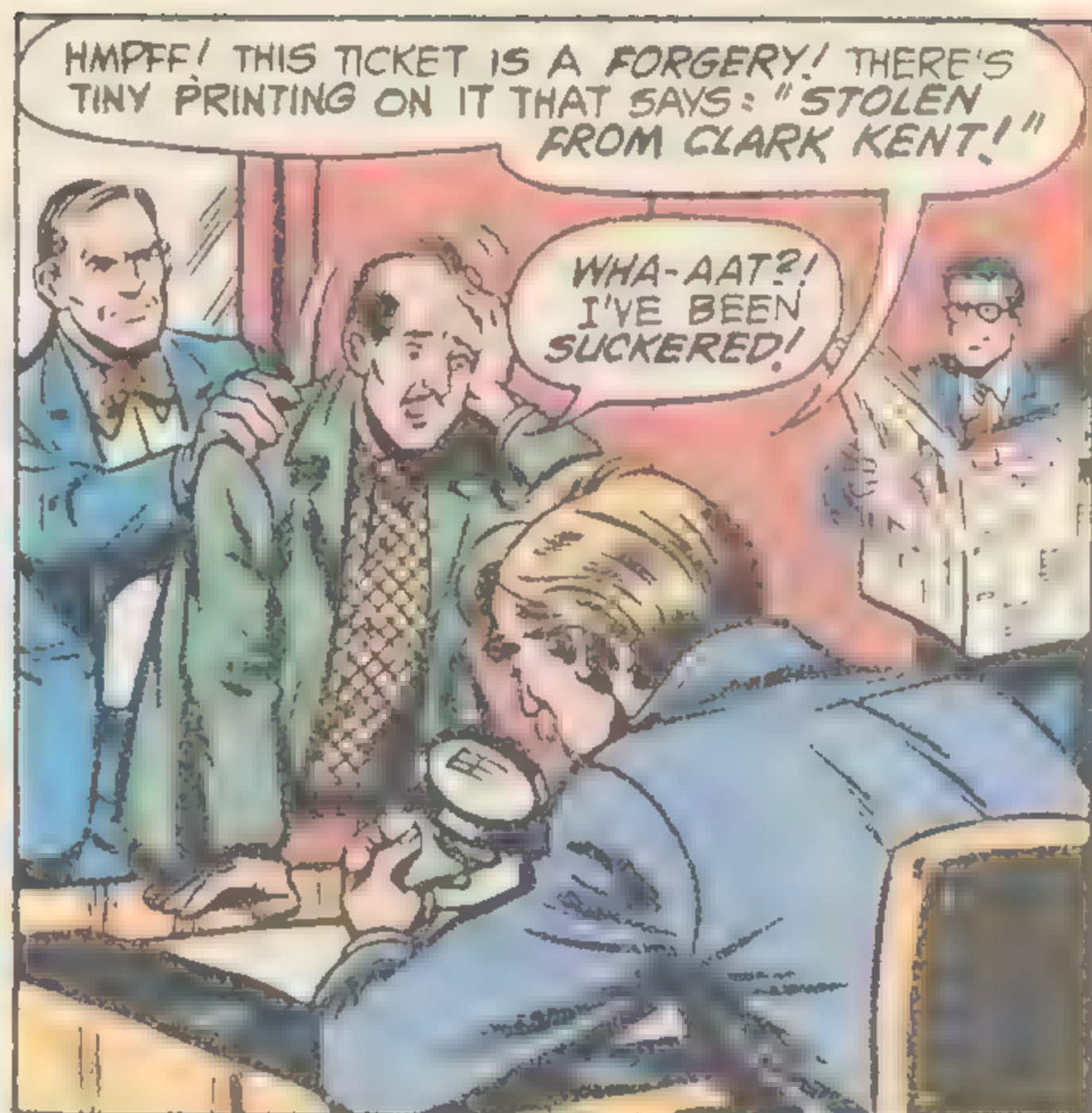
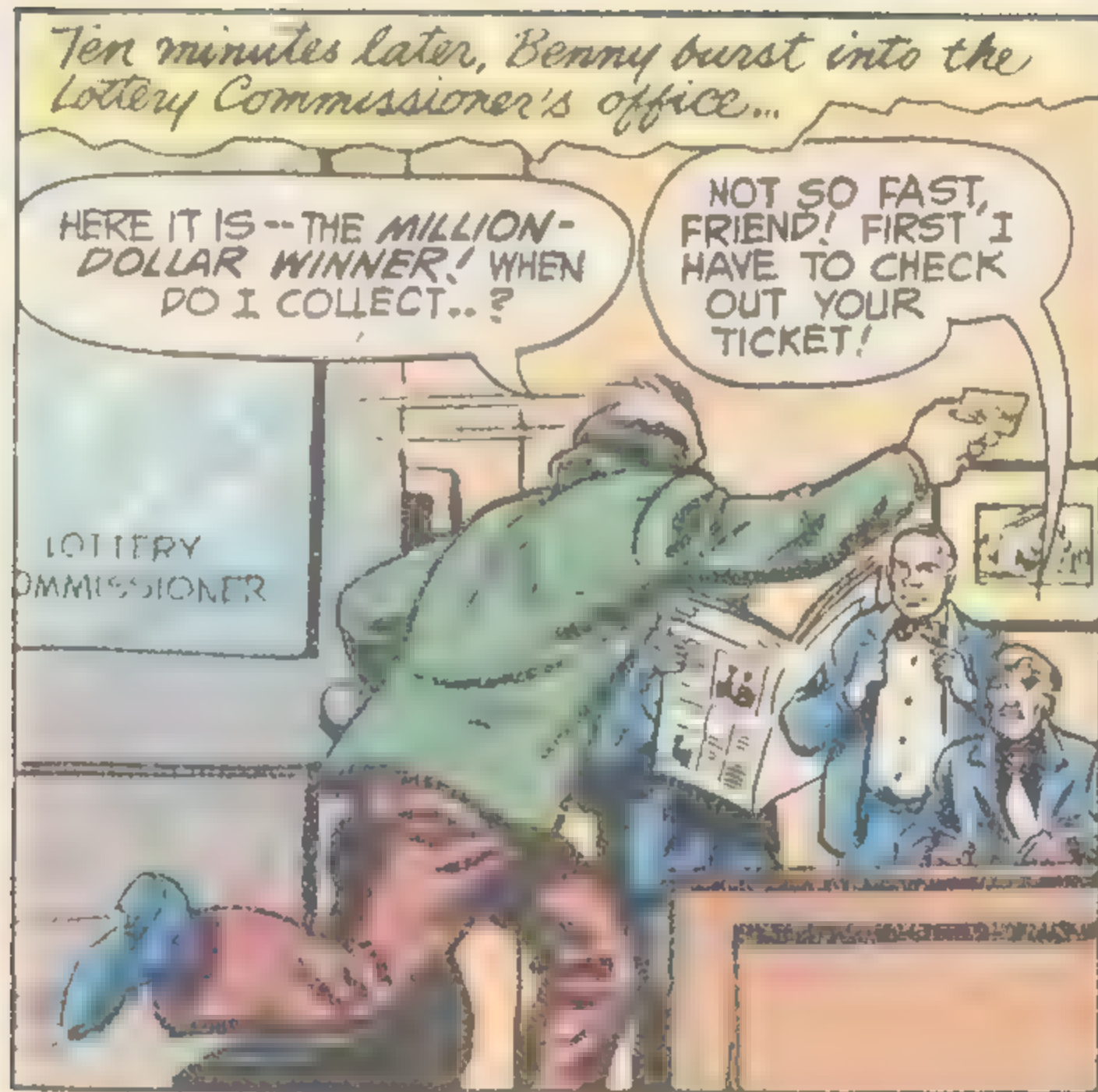


Benny the "Dip" was good with his hands--and I was his willing victim...



As soon as Benny was out of sight, I phoned the Lottery Commission...







Dear Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Bridwell:

Cary Bates drives me crazy! After last issue, I expected to be bored to death with #270, but Cary, the little old plot-twister, did it again! What a convoluted plot! I loved every minute of it, though, from the splash-page's teaser with Gregory Reed down through all the schemes and counter-schemes and machinations to the usual wiseacre finale.

I must admit I was mystified most of the way through "Even Superman Must Die Sometime". Cary had me fooled about almost everything. Flash and Green Lantern's roles were brief, but well-conceived. Glad to see our hero using his super-brain to outwit Terra-Man (again).

The supporting characters were used well, as usual, except that the staff of Galaxy Communications seemed to do nothing but stand around during the entire story. Very interesting that Jimmy should assume the reason Clark hadn't come to work was that he was broken up over Superman's "death." Also interesting that Lois no longer goes around checking up on Clark whenever Supie disappears. (I wonder . . . ?) Could it be that the theory advanced by Brian Uhlenbrock in the lettercol (of #470) is correct? That last scene also raises questions. Cary Bates, you are a devil!

Beth Montelone
13 Rowley St., Apt. 3
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

(So is Marty Pasko—as you'll find out when you read his story in the issue #185 of Superman Family!—E.N.B.)

Dear Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Bridwell:

I have just reread Action 468, 469 and now 470, and offer a few comments. I enjoyed both the cover and the story art, and the appearances of The Flash, Green Lantern and the mysterious man in the bum clothing. I especially enjoyed seeing Lois run to Superman with a big, warm kiss at the end. That was very, very nice.

The story, however, was weakened in a very central way. Superman defeated Terra-Man in 468, but had to continue the TV charade in 469. Why? The cosmomite bombs! I'm not trying to be picky, but this enormous threat to Metropolis was ignored in 470. This weakness was more than made up for in a generally fine story by Cary Bates. I enjoyed it very much.

I must respectfully disagree with Brian Uhlenbrock's comments in 470. I hope more book-lengthers appear in Action when the plot requires them. And I hope the back-up features will be from the WGBS family. Like Brian, though, I think Lois knows more than she's telling!

James M. Michaelson
89 Hilltop Mbl. Hm. Pk.
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

(What happened to the bombs? Well, The Flash could have found and defused them at super-speed. Or GL's

power ring could have done the job. But they didn't! Once Supes was set up as a decoy, T-M didn't need the bombs any more, since he expected to watch everything as a spectator. And being in Metropolis, he didn't want any danger to himself—so HE deactivated the bombs!—E.N.B.)

Dear Editor:

I'm sorry to say someone goofed. In #470, Gregory Reed wears a Superman mask. But in Action #455, it was stated that after his face was scarred in an accident, he had his new face modeled after Superman's.

Then Greg says, "I can't help fantasizing what it would be like if I could somehow gain super-powers. But in #455, he says, "Superman provided me with a wondrous pill that gave me some of his super-powers for 12 hours."

Finally, on the cover, the date on the tombstone is 1977. But inside, it says 1976.

Please try to be more careful, OK? Pat Hagan
4733 Foons Lane
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

(OK! And we plead guilty on the super-powers and tombstone counts. However, there was a good reason for the mask. Greg has very dark hair—and whiskers. It doesn't take long after a shave before that black stubble starts to peep out of his face, especially with a long shooting schedule. And since Superman's whiskers don't grow under a yellow sun, a Supes with five o'clock shadow is out of the question!—E.N.B.)

Dear Editor:

The conclusion of the Terra-Man trilogy in Action #470 completely took me by surprise. Cary Bates once again proved himself the master of the plot-twist. Never in a million years would I have imagined The Man of Steel returning from the grave as a double of the Demonic Desperado. At the conclusion of this tremendous tale, I chuckled at Terra's groveling as Supes threatened to lock him up with the alien. Speaking of the alien, I immediately recognized him as resembling the person who made Terra-Man what he is today. For a minute, I thought T-Man's mentor had come back to life to avenge his murder, but Cary outsmarted me; it was only the mentor's brother.

The story's guest-stars also added to my enjoyment. I was glad to see Gregory Reed again. His performance as "Superman" really had me wondering until I remembered Green Lantern and Flash also appeared in the story.

Anyway, Cary did a great job with the series. Although these multipart adventures are nice, it would be a good idea to use them only once or twice a year. (Thrice if Cary comes up with three worthy plots!)

Keep doing the fantastic job you're doing. I'm a long-time Superfan (I even did a college term paper on him!) and I don't like to be disappointed. If you keep on turning out stories like this, I won't be.

Neil Durbin
2415 Hillcrest Dr.
Stow, Ohio 44224

(Do you realize three three-parters would take up nine issues—and three four-parters would take care of the entire year! Oh—before closing, I hereby apologize for calling Joey Riggs "Jay" in #470's lettercol.—E. Nelson Bridwell)



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